September/October 2004 Issue

3rd Annual Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

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Alternative CENTRAL

A Publication for Central PA's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community.

"Dine-Out" Directly Helps HIV/AIDS Clients

More than 40 restaurants throughout south central Pennsylvania and their patrons will "Dine-Out" to help fight HIV/AIDS. The one-night event takes place Wednesday, September 22, 2004.

Dine-Out annually includes restaurants in Lancaster, Dauphin, Cumberland, Adams and York Counties and traditionally raises more than $40,000 to support essential HIV/AIDS services and prevention/education programs right here in the region.

"All money raised goes directly for services based in the region," says AIDS Community Alliance (ACA) CEO Phil Goropoulos. Proceeds from the event directly benefit clients of ACA, "Caring Together", and the HOPE Initiative of Planned Parenthood of Central PA. A complete listing of restaurants is available by calling 1-800-867-1550.

Helping to make a difference in the fight against HIV/AIDS in our community has never been easier. Simply by going out for dinner on September 22 at a participating restaurant, individuals and families make a valuable contribution to local organizations committed to meeting the needs of those living with HIV and preventing future infections. Helping to make a difference is as easy as eating the food you love.

South Central PA
DINE-OUT
Caring á la carte

First

Identify a participating restaurant at which you, your friends and your family would like to dine. It could be an old favorite or someplace that you have always wanted to try.

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Valuing families vs. family values

Rosie O'Donnell Talks to Alternative Central

by Chris Tittel
Key West Correspondent

Comedienne, actress, Emmy Award-winning talk show host, producer, entrepreneur, painter, lesbian, mother, newlywed, activist. Rosie O'Donnell is definitely in a league of her own, not afraid to step up to the plate and swing a verbal bat at President George W. Bush and anyone else who would deny gays and lesbians the right to marry and have children.

"He is the most divisive president we've ever had," she said. "I think he has caused more harm than any president in recent memory."

In an interview with *Alternative Central* July 14, O'Donnell reacted to the U.S. Senate voting down earlier in the day a proposed constitutional amendment that would ban same-sex marriages.

Her comments came during a stop in Key West to exhibit her artwork, a sideline event to the week-long maiden voyage of her new gay family-friendly cruise line.

Although she was not particularly surprised at the Senate vote, her message to President Bush and the legislators who voted in favor of the draft amendment was as cold as the bottle of beer sweating in her hand from the South Florida heat.

"I actually believed that the

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Elizabethtown's Mike Escobar Designs Teresa Heinz Kerry T-shirt

Elizabethtown's Mike Escobar designed four different Teresa Heinz Kerry "Mama" t-shirts now available on CAFEPRESS.com. Proceeds will be donated to organizations supporting John Kerry's presidential election campaign.

Heinz Kerry drew tumultuous applause from more than 200 lgbt delegates and their supporters recently when she addressed the Democratic National Convention's lgbt caucus.

"I know that I am welcomed and I am grateful to be welcomed," Heinz Kerry said, as caucus members and guests chanted "Teresa!, Teresa!".

"I'm grateful to you because you symbolize family," she said. "You symbolize strength and hope. You symbolize resistance. And you symbolize tolerance. For that we are all thankful to you."

Other speakers appearing before the caucus included Hollywood figures Rob Reiner, film actor Ben Affleck and "Sopranos" television star Steve Buscemi. They all expressed support for gay rights and Kerry's campaign.

Heinz Kerry outshined them all, according to the lgbt caucus.

"You are in a sense pushing the envelope," she said. "We have to respond with policies that reflect the capacity and the tolerance of all Americans," she added, possibly referring to her husband's position of support for civil unions rather than gay marriage.

"But," she continued, "because things are difficult doesn't mean they won't happen," Heinz Kerry concluded.

Mama T
Teresa Heinz Kerry for First Lady
Mama T
Teresa Heinz Kerry for First Lady

Stonewall Democrats Organize in Central PA

After nearly four years of George W. Bush in the White House, many gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans are eager for change.

Soon they will have a local outlet in the Capital Region to work for that change in the Nov. 2 election as the Stonewall Democrats, a grassroots lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender organization, are forming a local chapter. The group will also welcome participation from those who are "straight but not narrow."

The group has tentatively scheduled its kick-off event for Sunday, September 12, 1-3 p.m. at the Democratic State Committee Headquarters, 510 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg. Speakers include prominent Pennsylvania Democratic officials and candidates.

"George W. Bush and his team want to use GLBT people as a political football and pass the first amendment that would write discrimination into the U.S. Constitution instead of protecting civil rights. A right-wing administration and Congress want to make us second-class citizens for decades to come and keep the religious right in the driver's seat. After the last four years, it's clear it does

continued on page 9

Eric Epstein Supports Gay Community

When Eric Epstein approached *Alternative Central* about advertising, he first wanted to plead his case before accessing our pages – and potential voters.

He's the real deal folks. Nothing up his sleeve. And even if you don't also agree with his other political stands – on TMI, for example – know that the lgbt community has a true friend in Eric Epstein. He's pledged not to support any legislation that "disenfranchises" our community.

He's also passionate on other issues.

Day Care Center Evacuation Plans

As chair of Three Mile Island Alert, Epstein was a leading pro-

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Nescopeck Opens Club Oasis

Northeast Pennsylvania's newest hot spot is Club Oasis – Music & Dancing at 935 3rd St, Nescopeck (570-752-1273). The club is open Monday - Saturday 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. and is the formerly Sammy's Hideaway, located right at train track crossing.

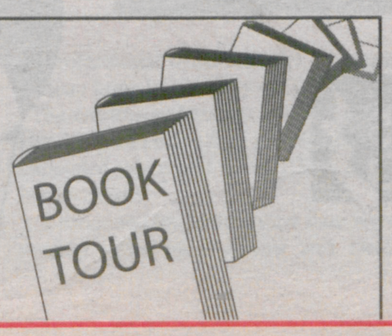
Early week special include: Tuesday through Thursday, 9 p.m. – 1 a.m. is Karaoke Night with different drink specials each night. For open mike nights, the club supplies the stage and sound system. Customers bring the instruments and vocals. Open to all types of music. Sign-up starts when doors open. A Karaoke machine is currently on order.

Friday and Saturday Nights are DJ Dance Party nights with special DJs spinning House/Techno/Hip-Hop/Top 40 all night long. Saturday will soon evolve to a "live band" night.

Club Oasis' festive lounge is available for private party rental.

Directions: Located on Rt. 93 in Nescopeck, PA. (935 3rd St) From I-80, take Conyngham Exit 256. Take PA 93 North about 10 miles. From I-81 South, take I-80 West. From I-81 North, take West Hazleton Exit 145 to PA 93 North. Follow around 17 miles. For more precise directions, see www.mapsonus.com.

PHASE
Book Tour
PAGE 9



FAB 2004:
Comedian
Georgia Ragsdale
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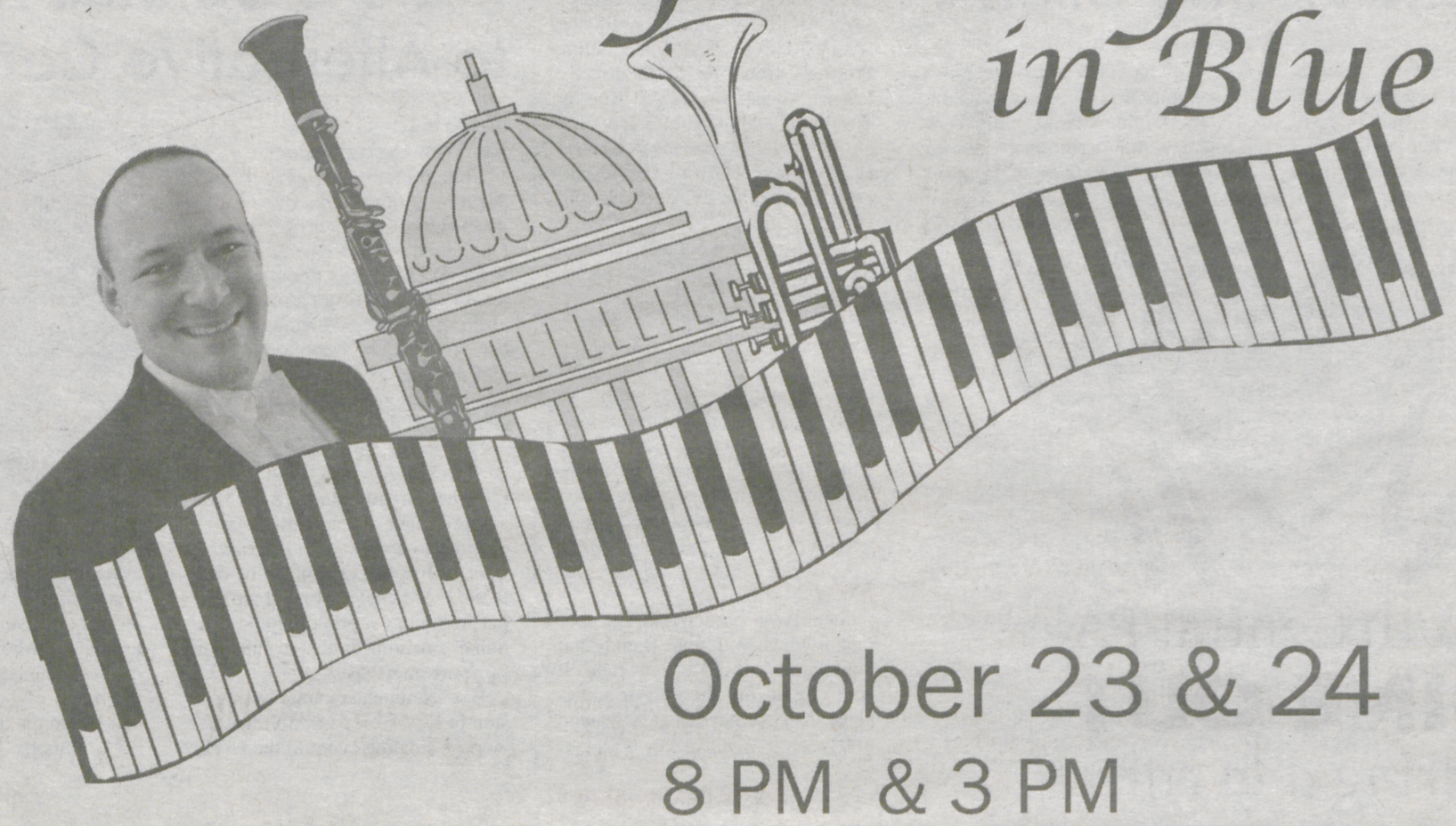
CAPITAL BLUECROSS POPS

PRESENTS

STUART MALINA AND THE

HARRISBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

"Rhapsody in Blue"



October 23 & 24

8 PM & 3 PM

Gotta Be Gershwin

The Forum, downtown Harrisburg

Stuart Malina plays *"Rhapsody in Blue"*
and conducts other Gershwin favorites,
including music from *Porgy and Bess*.

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FOR EACH HSO POPS SUBSCRIPTION PURCHASE, YOU WILL RECEIVE TWO FREE TICKETS TO ANY 2004-05 THEATRE HARRISBURG PRODUCTION!

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE A GREAT VALUE OVER
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ALLIED ARTS FUND

CELEBRATING 75 years of MUSIC

Publisher's Letter

Why We're No Threat

by Frank Pizzoli
Publisher & Editor
Alternative Central

Our loving, committed community is no threat to the stability of Western Civilization, especially its family structure. Adults are free to choose who they love.

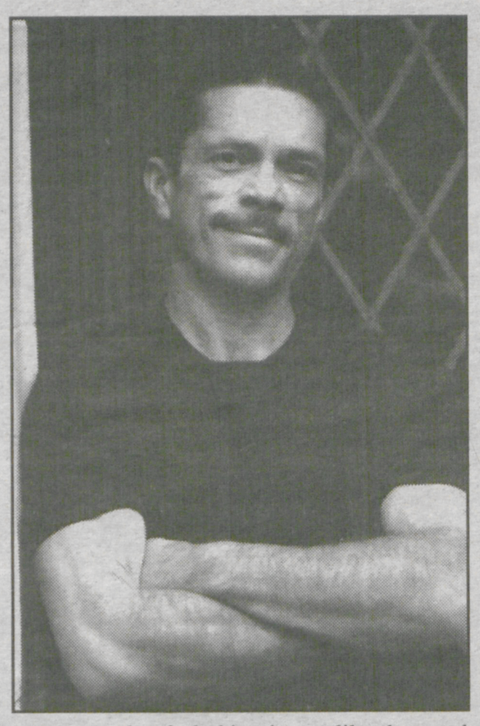
Contrary to religious zealots – I call them The American Taliban - who have no capacity to consider opinions other than their own, gay and lesbian folk are tediously normal individuals. We go to work, clean house, mow lawns, and pick up after our children, pay taxes, attend church, and volunteer - *that's* The Homosexual Lifestyle.

In contrast, The American Taliban fears that if we're allowed to hitch up we'll further harm their dismal 50 percent marriage failure rate. Seems to me they've done a splendid job of ruining the institution themselves. No help from us is needed or offered.

In fact, the co-authors of "Staying Married and Loving It" were married five times themselves, one of them to Bozo the Clown for 18 months. Former US House member Bob Barr, a family values kind of guy who never missed chances to bash gays, licked whipped cream from a woman's breast at one of his own fundraisers. Did he feel manly at that moment? Imagine him making national policy decisions.

Barr's colleague Rep. Dan Burton called Bill Clinton a "scumbag" (which he is, by the way) and then, four months later admitted his own adultery. Finally, we have the biggest weasel of them all, Newt Gingrich. He snaked over to his cancer-stricken wife's hospital bed to announce their divorce.

Collectively, this crowd suffers from what I call "Gay on the Brain" syndrome. Small-minded, self-loathing people need Big Enemies to keep denial of what they dislike about themselves nailed shut inside their own closets. We need to engage them in more constructive outlets for their aggression. Perhaps research on homophobia published in "The Journal of Abnormal Psychology" helps us to understand them: "Homophobia is apparently associated with homosexual arousal that the homosexual individual is either unaware of or denies".



Homophobia research may explain why so many right-wing religious groups, like their elected counterparts, just can't let it go – they'd have to embrace in themselves what they deny. But that's a form of manliness among their ranks we haven't seen for a long time. Well, the exception is the former executive director of Homosexual Anonymous who could no longer live the lie and ran off with his male assistant and some of the organization's funds to join Dorothy in Kansas. Promise Keepers had to gather thousands of men in stadiums to pledge they'll take care of their families. Sounds to me like that crowd *ought* to be attending churches with stern rules if they need to be scolded into caring for their families.

Next we have what I call "Retail Pedophilia" – marketing anything and everything to kids, including lewd clothing items, like the word "Juicy" on the back side of jeans for 9-year old girls – orchestrated by corporations runs by Republicans who profess family values.

Gays getting married is going to ruin the family?

Actually, allowing same-sex couples to marry adds an additional $400 million annually until the end of this decade, according to a June Congressional Budget Office (CBO) analysis of Census 2000. The increase mainly derives from alleviating the "marriage penalty" income tax. Social Security payments also would rise over time. So would spending on spousal health insurance benefits by federal workers, if gay couples could legally

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Central to your life.

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I recently got a copy of *Alternative Central* at Central PA Pride. I have missed reading it since we left the area. I am an MCC minister in Montgomery County, Maryland and live in Hagerstown Md. My husband and I were married June 3 at St. John's Episcopal Chapel, in Cambridge Mass.

Since we both are from central Pennsylvania and have many ties to the Harrisburg area, we wondered if you place wedding announcements in your newspaper?

Thanks for your work on a very nice publication.

Rob Taylor
Pastor, Open Door MCC
Boyds Maryland.

Editor responds: Yes, we do publish wedding announcements (posops@aol.com).

Dear Editor,

My name is Valerie and I want to thank you for *Alternative Central.* I'm a senior at Kutztown University of PA. I really enjoy your paper.

I live midway between Harrisburg and Allentown. Yes, that's right - Mennonite Country. So, needless to say, it ain't easy. I have not met an Amish lesbian – yet.

Anyway, again, great paper, and I hope you keep up the good work. You would be amazed at how many of us out here in "Santorum" country really love reading a local paper about our community.

Thanks,
VS
scha0097@kutztown.edu

News page

Taylor-Apgar Wedding

The Rev. Robert Taylor and Mr. Robert Apgar were married June 3 in St. John's Chapel at Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Mass. The celebrant was the Rev. Robert Griffin of Cambridge. The Revs. Dr. Carter Heyward of Cambridge and Durrell Watkins of New Brunswick, New Jersey assisted in the liturgy.

Rev. Taylor, formerly of Chambersburg, is the pastor of Open Door Metropolitan Community Church in Boyds, Maryland and a Doctoral Candidate at Princeton Theological Seminary. Mr. Apgar, formerly of Harrisburg, is a student in the Physical Therapy Assistant Program at Hagerstown Community College and employed at Bed Bath & Beyond, Hagerstown. The couple resides in Clear Spring, Maryland.

Gettysburg Unitarian Universalists Start Weekly Services

The Unitarian Universalists of Gettysburg start weekly Sunday services September 12 with Rev. Carol Ann Taylor as speaker. Taylor is Minister of Religious Education. Founded in 2001, the group will now meet 3p.m. every Sunday, Trinity United Church of Christ, High & Stratton Sts (www.uugettysburg.org).

Ministers from neighboring Unitarian Universalist congregations will conduct the services, representing York, Harrisburg, Boiling Springs, and Hagerstown and Frederick, MD.

In particular, emphasis will be on programs of religious education for children and young people.

The group is committed a diverse membership and welcomes all people "regardless of religious background, political persuasion, age, race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, class, or disability.

Stretchies Too Tight? She protests too much?

Professional wrestler Brock Lesnar is a decent guy. "The man doesn't have a mean bone in his body off the competitive field," manager John Wolf said. "The wrestling character is so out of realm for him," Wolf added. Apparently, attacking and offending people also is out of Lesnar's realm, but that's what happened when he told an ESPN sports writer Wayne Drehs he doesn't like homosexuals.

Lesnar and his male dinner date were in a Minneapolis restaurant. A young woman sidled up to Lesnar and, Drehs reported, told him her male friend "thinks you're kinda cute." Lesnar erupted. "To print what Lesnar said might make even John Rocker blush," Drehs said later. After his curse-laden outburst, he turned to another nearby reporter and explained, 'I don't like gays. Write that down in your little notebook. I don't like gays.'"

Well, the lgbt community thinks your outfits are, like, just too gay. We also think big bodies with little brains like yours would understand, if you could read, that tons of research indicates that "homophobes" like you like clearly afraid of your own thoughts (or guilt-ridden deeds, one never knows with closet cases of your pathology). We think you protest too much – and therefore give yourself away. In an office pool, we voted you're likely "bad sex" anyway.

Headlines You'd Love to Read

5 Midtown Harrisburg Groups Stop Fighting

First Queer Couple Weds in White House

Homophobia Declared Mental Illness

Another Idiot: Beenie Man Drops Gay-Bashing Songs At Electric Factory Concert

After Rita Addessa's Pennsylvania Lesbian and Gay Task Force threatened to demonstrate outside his Electric Factory concert, Beenie Man dropped two songs gay activists called homophobic. His real name is Anthony Davis.

The demonstration stands for Davis's October return to Philadelphia unless he specifically denounces his song lyrics activists say encourage violence against homosexuals.

"It's not like we have to wait and see if lyrics like Beenie Man's result in our death. Anyone reading the gay press knows they're killing us now, all over the country," said one activist. Last June, Jamaica's most notable gay civil rights leader was brutally murdered in his home. Davis is from Jamaica.

Davis's hit tune, Bad Man Chi Chi Man (Bad Man, Queer Man), instructs listeners to kill gays: "If yuh nuh chi chi (queer) man wave yuh right hand and (NO!!!)/If yuh nuh lesbian wave yuh right hand and (NO!!!)Some bwoy will go a jail fi kill man tun bad man chi chi man!!!./Tell mi, sumfest it should a be a showdown/Yuh seem to run off a stage like a clown (Kill Dem DJ!!!)".

In Jamaican slang, "batty man" and "chi chi man" are the equivalent of "poof" and "faggot."

At the time of the threatened protest, Davis said, "[Gays] got our music wrong." "If you have sex with a man, that's your own business. We don't fight against lifestyles. We just don't want anyone to molest our kids." Most child molesters are heterosexual, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Clubs in Pittsburgh and Indianapolis cancelled his appearances following after complaints his music incites violence against gays.

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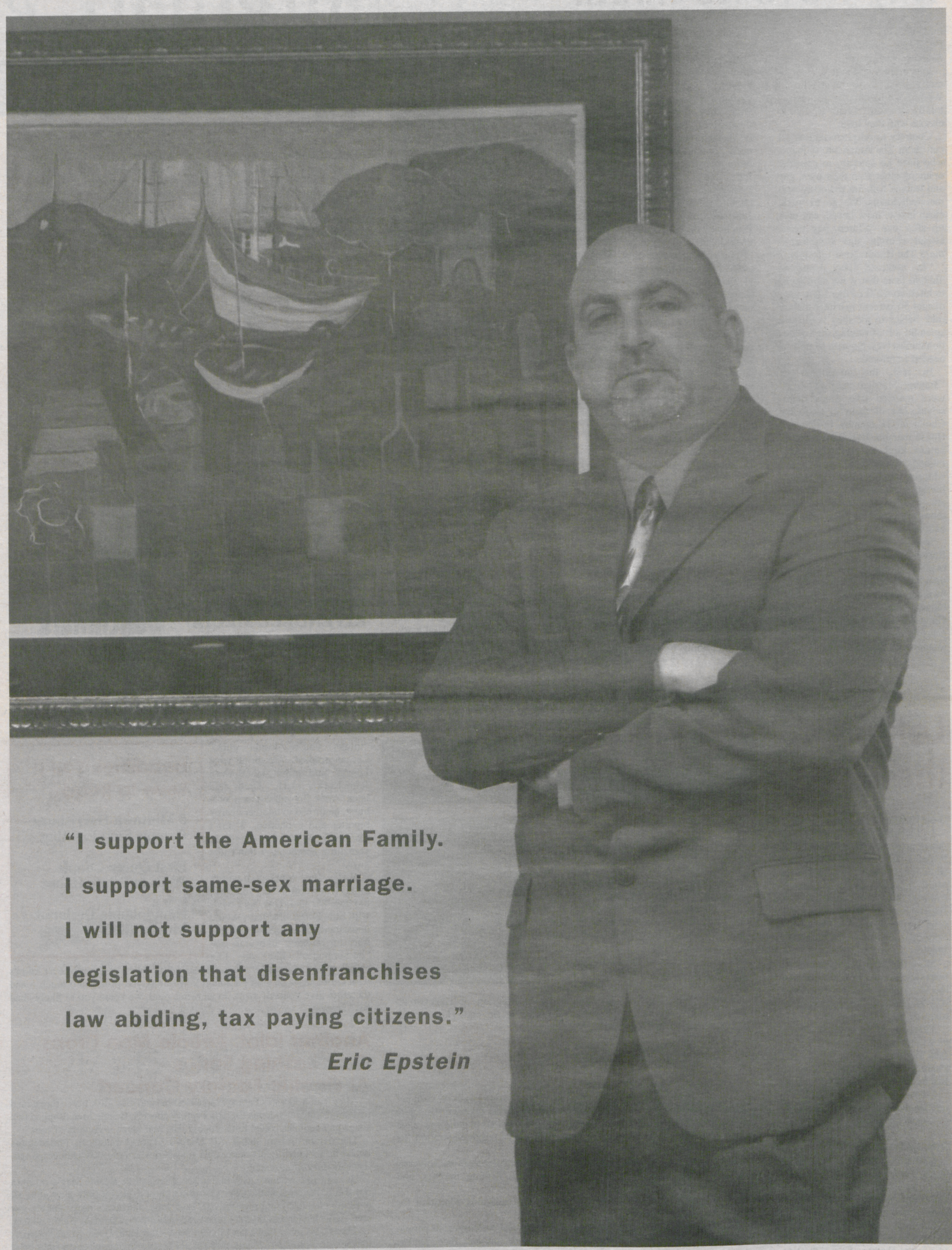

"I support the American Family.
I support same-sex marriage.
I will not support any
legislation that disenfranchises
law abiding, tax paying citizens."

Eric Epstein

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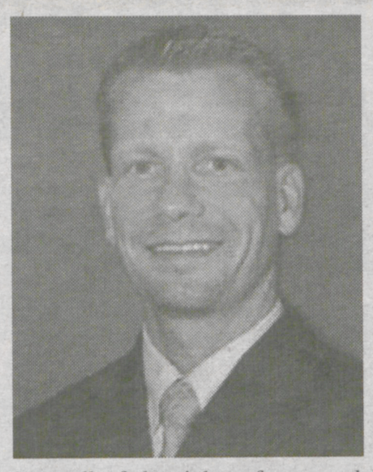
Adoption in PA Possible

By Derek J. Cordier, Esquire
www.derekjcordier.com



For those of you thinking about adopting, here is a brief overview of the specifics. In Pennsylvania a gay or lesbian couple may adopt a child who is not biologically or adoptively related to either partner. A gay or lesbian partner may also adopt a child who is the biological or adopted child of the other partner.

In 2002, our adoption law was interpreted by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to allow gay partner, second parent, adoptions. The Court found that it was "absurd to prohibit their adoptions merely because their children were either the biological or adopted children of one of the partners prior to the filing of the adoption petition." The only body who can change the present state of the law is our legislature. Some in the Pennsylvania legislature have pushed for such a change, so be aware of where your votes go!

If there is a known biological or adoptive parent outside of the gay or lesbian relationship, that parent must give up their rights. Giving up their rights will amount to a complete break in that relationship. They will have no rights as to custody or visitation and no duty of support. If the person giving up their rights is willing to do so, the process is simple and requires a consent form. If the person giving up their parental rights is not willing to do so, their rights must be terminated. Termination of parental rights is accomplished by proving that the parent has shown a complete and ongoing unwillingness to care for the child. The specific requirements for such a determination are governed by statute.

An adoptive parent steps in the place of the biological or former adoptive parent. That is, they will have all of the rights of a natural parent, such as custody and visitation. They will also have all of the obligations as a natural parent, such as being responsible for the welfare of the child and supporting the child financially.

Gay or lesbian second parent adoptions should be treated the same as step-parent adoptions. However, some county judges require an investigation of the same sex adopting parent, which is normally not required for step-parent adoptions. This may be discriminatory. However, causing the judge some discontent, and the process of appealing such a requirement, may not be in the adopting parent's best interest - emotionally or financially. The investigator, usually a court appointed agency, files a report for review by court. The investigation consists of an interview and home visit.

The cost including attorney fees, court costs, and investigation fees associated with a consensual or unknown sperm donor adoption may run from $1,000.00 to $1,500.00. However, the cost to terminate a parent's rights would make the endeavor significantly more expensive.

Comedian Georgia Ragsdale Headlines FAB Fundraiser

The 9th Annual Fall Achievement Benefit (FAB) returns Saturday, November 20 to the Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center with four fabulous parties, including an "After Hours" Party. Funds raised by the event benefit the local community.

The Strand-Capitol is located on 50 North George Street in York, PA. Tickets are $75 per person for the main event and $135 per person for the VIP reception, the main event and "After Hours" Party. Reservations will be coordinated through FAB hosts or call 717-236-5040 to make reservations. For more information: *www.fab-pa.org*.

The VIP Reception with Gloria Ragsdale is 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and features a Premium Open Bar and hors d'oeuvres. The main event begins at 7:00 p.m.

One of the highlights of the evening will be the awards presentation recognizing an individual or individuals who have made a difference in our community. If you would like to nominate an individual visit the FAB website at www.fab-org to download a nomination form.

Continue partying after the main event at two "after parties" held right at the Strand. Dance your pumps or tux off at the Dance Party featuring dance tunes to rattle your bones. Or chill to the melodious sounds of the Carmitchell Sisters featuring Bobbi Carmitchell.

Funny Girl Ragsdale Dishes

Popular from HBO specials, television, and film, our special entertainment is comedian Georgia Ragsdale, one of the most exciting talents emerging from the ranks of gay comics. She brings to comic life experiences both men and women share. Her stand-up comedy leaves audiences gasping for breath – you will not be disappointed.

"Wave Babes" is Ragsdale's latest project. She worked as writer, producer and lead actress.

FAB Auction

Silent Auction items are on display all evening for bidding. Auction items are provided by members of the lgbt community and friends of the community, amny of whom have donated items for many consecutive years. Items donated include a variety of eclectic and one-of-a-kind things - weekend get away packages to hand-painted stemware. Individuals or businesses looking to donate an auction item can go to www.fab-org for a donation sheet.

$5,000 Prize

This year FAB offers $100 raffle tickets to 100 individuals. Buyers will be donating to the lgbt community. Buyers have a 1-in-100 chance of winning a $5,000 cash prize. Buyers do not need to be present to win. Tickets are available through www.fab-pa.org. Don't delay. Tickets are expected to sell quickly.

Vartan Supply Company

In addition, The Vartan Supply Company has graciously donated $5,000 worth of home remodeling materials and/or labor for the Silent Auction.

Hors d'oeuvres Extraordinaire

Back by popular demand, Accomac Catering will serve an assortment of elegant hors d'oeuvres prepared on site – the rave of last year's event. Additional hors d'oeuvres will be offered from beautifully designed displays including an assortment especially selected for our Vegan and Vegetarian guests.

FAB Benefits Locally

Proceeds from FAB 2004 will benefit organizations serving the central Pennsylvania's lgbt community. All money raised by FAB since 1999 has gone to The Equity for Gays and Lesbians Partnership (EGAL) Fund, a special project of the Greater Harrisburg Foundation that grants funds to local organizations serving the lgbt community.

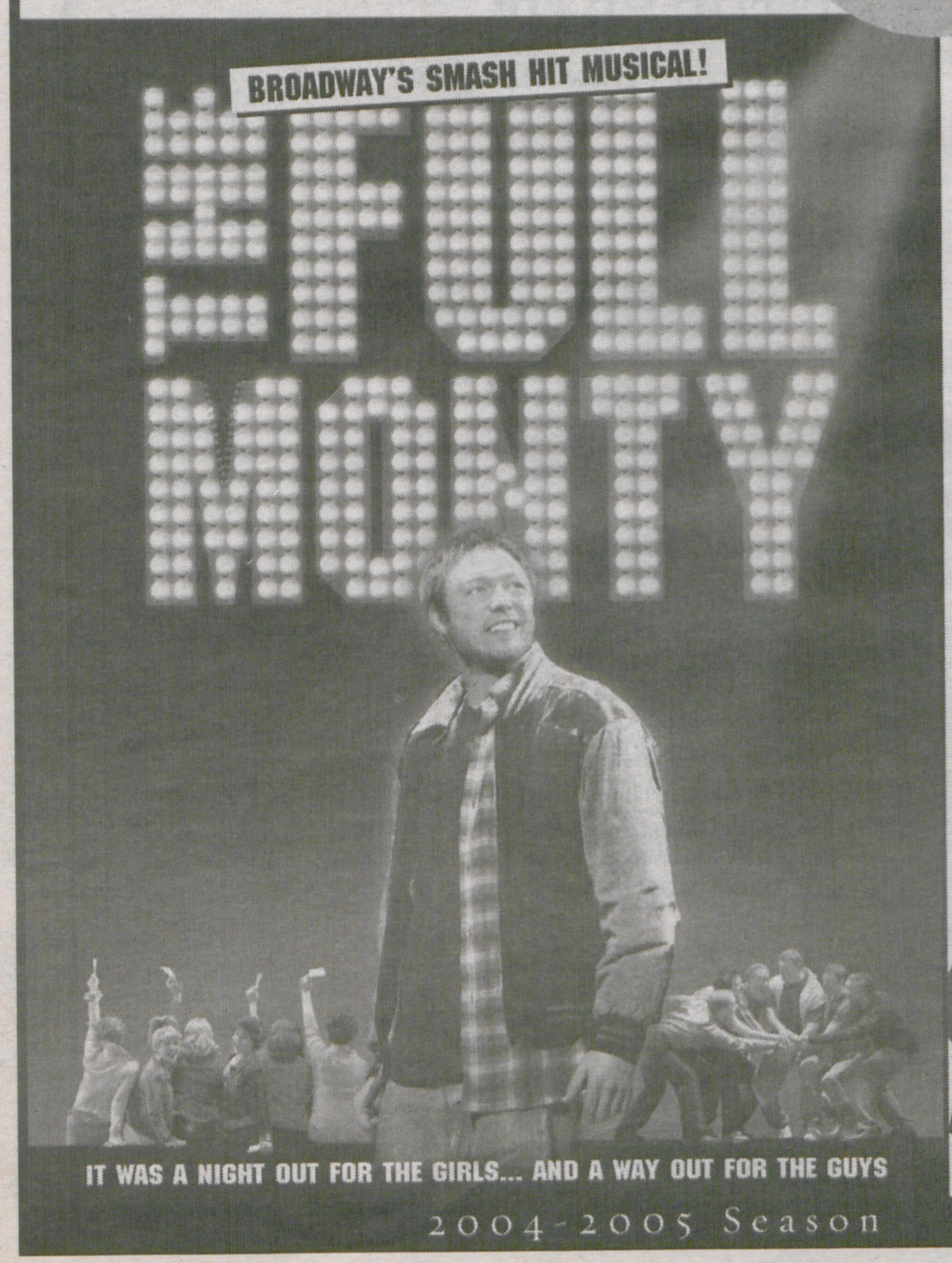
Funds raised have benefited several area organizations including The Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Common Roads youth group, SPARC (Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coalition), and The Woman's Circle.

Friday & Saturday, October 1 & 2

25th Anniversary Season

Friday, October 29 — Sunday, October 31

5 BIG performances!



2004-2005 Season

Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center

Box Office: 717-846-1111
www.strandcapitol.org

Small Business Owner Retirement Plans

By Benn J. Smith
Financial Consultant
AXA Advisors, LLC

Many small business owners neglect planning for their retirement. They may be too busy building their business to think 25 or 30 years down the road, or they may feel they need to plow all their available cash back into their company.

Whatever the reason, business owners who do not plan for retirement may come up short of retirement income. Not only do they often lack company retirement plans, but also their personal investments may be inadequate. Equity in the business could replace investments, but there's no way to know how much the company will be worth when retirement comes. Some businesses do well while the owner is active but are worth little without the owner's energy and expertise.

In addition to providing for their own retirement, many business owners are finding that they must provide retirement programs for their employees. Otherwise, they can't compete with larger companies for quality employees.

Retirement Plan Options

Several options are open to a small business owner who wants to start a company retirement program. There is no "right" one, each has advantages and disadvantages. Selecting the best-suited plan is a matter of considering funding costs, tax consequences, administrative requirements and, of course, the needs of the company and its employees.

A "qualified" or "tax-qualified" plan is one in which contributions are tax-deductible and there's no tax on income earned by the plan's assets until the employee begins receiving payments.

A qualified plan can be a "defined benefit" or a "defined contribution" plan. A defined benefit plan is one in which the amount the participant will receive upon retirement is set (defined) by a formula. The formula usually is derived from the retiree's length of service and average pay over the last several years of employment. A common form of defined benefit plan is the traditional company pension that pays retirees a guaranteed sum for life. Defined benefit plans can be expensive and administratively complex, so they are generally used in limited cases, such as when an owner is nearing retirement and needs to make large contributions.

A defined contribution plan is more common. The amount of the employer/employee contribution is set (defined) at a particular level, for example, as a percentage of compensation. The employer bears no responsibility for the performance of the product funding the plan.

Defined contribution plans include profit-sharing, 401(k) plans, Owners 401(k), SEP-IRA and others. Generally, qualified retirement plans must be available to all full-time and certain part-time employees. The amount of annual contributions are limited by law.

Non-qualified deferred compensation plans are those that a business offers to only certain employees—usually the owners and other highly-compensated employees. The contributions to such plans are not tax-deductible in the year they are made. However, depending on the plan type, interest that accrues in these types of plans may be tax-deferred.

As with other important financial decisions, selecting the suitable retirement program for your business requires careful examination of all options. This article is intended only to touch briefly on some of the options available to small business owners and self-employed people. You should consult appropriate professionals (tax advisors or other financial and legal advisors) before deciding what's best for you and your business.

A little planning today can make a world of difference tomorrow.

AXA Advisors, LLC does not provide legal or tax advice. Please consult your tax or legal advisor regarding your individual situation.

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Pink Lizard Celebrates 5 Years

Remember that Beatles hit where they "get by with a little help from their friends". Pink Lizard is a living example of friends helping friends.

As the popular bar, mostly lesbian with a healthy relationship with the drag community and lots of gay men, PL celebrates its 5th anniversary. "I learned along time ago, one must give in order to receive," says owner Marcia Greise.

Greise had her giving nature rewarded when last year her business was burglarized. "The drag queens did a show and at the end of it gave me all the proceeds to help with expenses I had incurred, "Greise says. Other customers with the "know how" helped her to install cameras and an alarm system. "I've been blessed. This community has been wonderful to me."

Sporty Style

Each year Greise holds a Pink Lizard Golf Open. Proceeds benefit breast cancer research. This year's event, the 4th, is September 19. Interested golfers can stop by bar for registration.

Pl has sponsored a softball team since 2000. "We organized a bus trip and marched on Washington for the Millennium March for Equality. She's even gathered friends into "fundraisers to help woman with funeral expenses, when they were caught very off guard with sudden deaths."

Drag Shows, Live Bands

PL hosts at least one, sometimes two, drag shows monthly. "This is what has really helped bring the men and women together. Men didn't want to come to the Lizard, but when we started drag shows men started coming out. They realized everyone is welcome here. As party girl herself, Greise said she "always wanted a club where everyone would gather together and party. I love the fact that we attract gay men, lesbians, transgender, swingers, even straight people come in. We all party together. Monthly, customers hear live bands from D.C., Phila., Pocono mountains, Lancaster, as well as local bands.

Even a Prom

November 19, PL hosts "The Prom We Never Had" with 2004 Pride performers "VooDoo Love Hounds" playing. "I've hired a photographer, and we are hoping to have a Prom night that many of us who never got to go to a prom or even those who did come out with there significant other and enjoy themselves," Greise says.

"I would like to thank everyone for supporting the Pink Lizard. Without them we wouldn't be here doing what we do!" Greise concludes.

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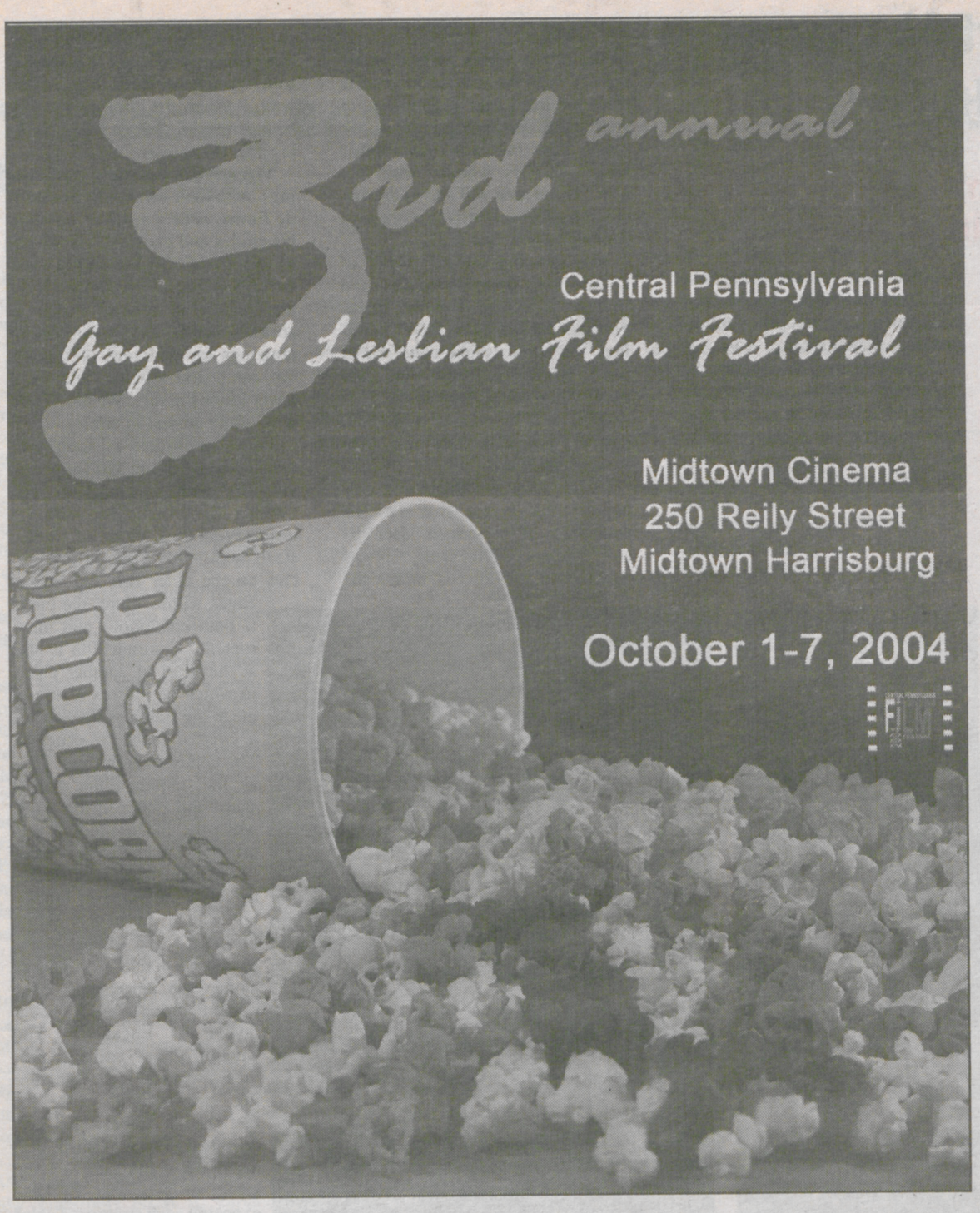

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Dine Out continued

Second

Make a reservation for anytime between 5 p.m. to closing for September 22. Reservations are not always required, but many restaurants will be filled to capacity with individuals wanting to do their part to help stop AIDS.

Third

Enjoy your dinner. Eat to your heart's content and do not forget to have dessert. Each participating restaurant has committed to donating 25 percent of food items sold from 5p.m. until close on September 22 to help fight the AIDS battle in south central Pennsylvania.

Despite perceptions that the AIDS epidemic has ended, new HIV infections across the country and throughout south central Pennsylvania continue to occur at an alarming rate. Events such as Dine-Out 2004 help to refocus attention upon the growing AIDS epidemic in the United States and our local communities.

AIDS Community Alliance provides HIV/AIDS supportive/care services including HIV Case Management and Treatment Adherence Counseling and HIV prevention and education programming to individuals and communities in Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin and Perry Counties.

Caring Together is a collaborative partnership of York Health Corporation, WellSpan Health, and OPEN (Ordinary People, Extraordinary Needs). Caring Together provides a seamless system of coordinated, high quality care for individuals in York County who are HIV positive so they can easily access the services they need.

The HOPE Initiative of Planned Parenthood of Central Pennsylvania provides women in York City with HIV prevention and education services using a peer-based intervention.

For more information on how to participate, a listing of participating restaurants and/or how to volunteer for Dine-Out 2004 please contact Lisa Eckhardt, Office Administrator, AIDS Community Alliance, 1-800-867-1550.

Eric Epstein continued

ponent of Senate Bill 922, legislation that requires pre-schools and day care centers licensed by the state to be included in local Emergency Management Plans. The bill passed the Senate on a unanimous vote in March, just days before the 25th anniversary of the TMI accident. The legislation won House approval on a 186-16 vote on June 30. "I salute Larry Christiansen for all his work in heading TMI's efforts on this bill and I commend the legislature for responding to an obvious shortcoming in the law," Eric said upon the bill's passage.

bitter girl
visitations
SHE DROPPED OUT OF COLLEGE TO START HER OWN AUTO BODY SHOP!
AND THAT'S NOT EVEN THE MOST INTERESTING ONE!
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SURE, MOM, SURE.
JOAN HILTY ©2004 kaibito1@aol.com

Incumbent Opponent Sen. Jeff Piccola

"Of all the members of the Senate with race tracks in their districts likely to get slot machines, the incumbent Senator Jeff Piccola has the distinction of being the only one to vote against this job-creating, property tax-relieving initiative," Epstein says.

Despite strong bipartisan support for the measure, so-called "Senator No" cast a vote against legislation that promises what is estimated to be a $100 million, job-creating, construction project in the district, as well as making possible property tax relief for all Pennsylvanians for decades to come.

"Is there anything more he could do to demonstrate how his concern for the people of central Pennsylvania is a distant second to his political ambitions?" asked candidate Eric Epstein when informed of Senator No's negative vote.

Epstein said he thought the incumbent was more interested in building a conservative voting record than in serving his constituents. "I think he wants a voting record that will show him to be more conservative

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Review: Susquehanna Art Museum Exhibits 360 Degrees of Unity

By Ricki Sablove

With circle as their theme, 6 artists find commonality in diverse forms

The circle is an endless source of fascination that has inspired both rhetoric and cliché.

To Vitruvius and Leonardo, the circle reflected the measure of the human body.

To Palladio, it was the most God-like of forms.

Everyday phrases like "full circle" express completeness. "What goes around, comes around," suggests a belief in karma. A "circle of friends" implies inclusion and exclusivity. Beneath linguistic and philosophical meanings is the circle itself, a physical form, ripe with visual – as well as verbal – meanings and contradictions.

In Susguehanna Art Museum's "Inner Circles," running until September 30, six artists explore possibilities and paradoxes in works similar in concept, yet surprisingly diverse in expression.

Conceived and curated by Debra Miller, "Inner Circles" features works by David Foss, James Fuhrman, Michelle Marcuse, Antonio Puri, Vincent Romaniello, and Tremain Smith, each of whom has brought a deeply personal vision to shared ideas.

In the essay introducing her thoughtful exhibition catalog, Dr. Miller writes, "Be it in encaustic, steel, oil paint, or collage, the circle, dot, and sphere unite these Philadelphia-based artists in a single focus ..." The museum's executive director Rusty Baker mounts the show with great sensitivity, managing to showcase artists' individual achievements without losing sight of the over-arching theme. His fluid and intelligent arrangement of space and careful lighting as we move from one artist to another makes visitors wonder what the next exhibit area will add to the discussion. Yet each artist's work says something new and exciting.

The two-dimensional works of David Foss, Tremain Smith, and Vincent Romaniello evoke three-dimensional spaces. In Foss's paintings, the circles suggest the primal forms of the amoeba, cell, and geode; they are biological and geological, natural entities with both past and potential. Here, the circle is origin and end.

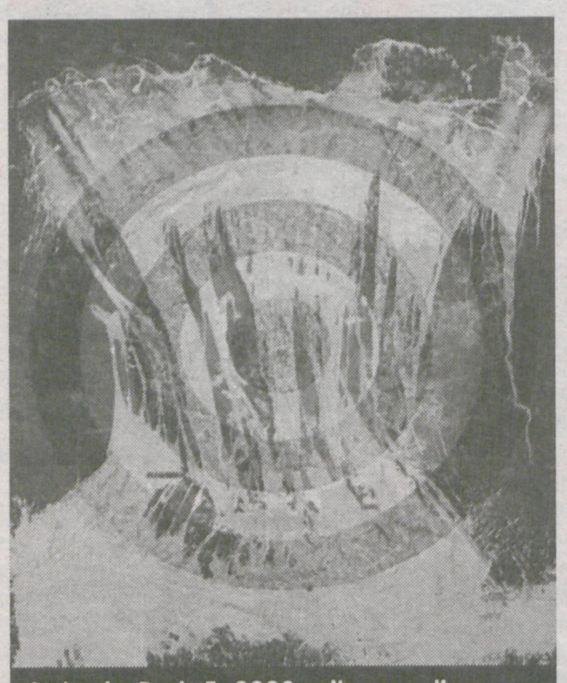
In her large, earth-colored collages, Smith creates what she calls "mappings of the unseen." Her circles, confined within grids, serve as windows that allow us to see the bits of metal and paper that she has ironed below surfaces of paint and wax. For her, the circle is the link between the viewer and the bottom layer of the canvas.

Vincent Romaniello's oil paintings, with their soft colors and gentle forms, belie a sense of conflict: his circles and ghostlike curves lull us into a sense of tranquility, until we realize that we're not sure if we are looking at organic forms or abstract shapes, at flat surfaces or drawings for buildings or figures. We can't stop looking, and we'll never know for sure. We are, if you will, going around in circles.

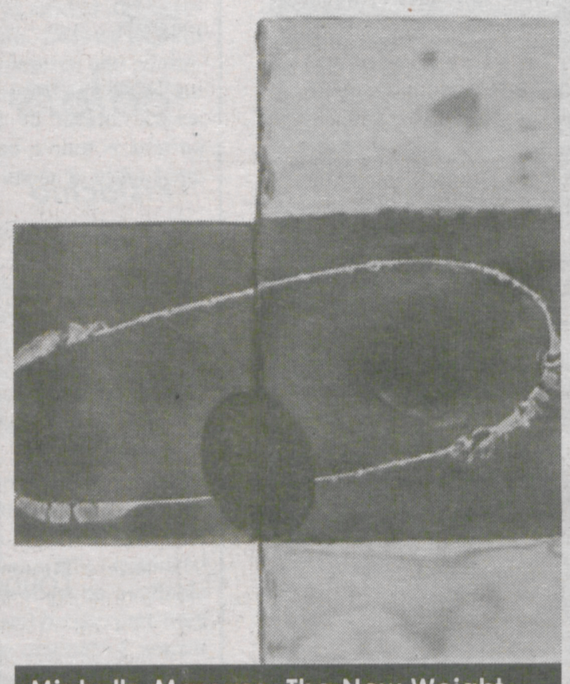
James Fuhrman's sculptures evince a sense of yin and yang, universality and contradiction. His "Winter Moon Light" is a solid, yet unsteady-looking, circle of welded steel, with softly curving half-circles on the outer rim and jagged edges within. Here, the circle is both continuous and interrupted. Contradiction is also at the heart of another piece, in which he imbeds a ring of gleaming stainless steel within a circular block of concrete. The contrasts aren't just visual; the smooth, shiny steel is sharp and brittle to the touch while the coarse block is surprisingly smooth to the touch.

Michelle Marcuse's circles are also contained in blocks, but with a difference. While Furhman's are in the block, Marcuse's are of it, captured, along with amorphous, even random, drops of color, under layers of encaustic. The smooth, glassy surfaces provide a window into a tantalizing, impenetrable core; the fact that the blocks are 1.5" deep makes us wonder if, perhaps, we could peel off the layers of wax, one by one, exposing each stratum of color as we move to the core. The

continued on page 12



Antonio Puri, 5, 2003, oils, acrylics, wax, newspaper on canvas, 128" x 113"



Michelle Marcuse, The New Weight, 2001, encaustic, oil paint on silk-covered masonite, 7.5" x 7.5" x 1.5"

David Foss, Untitled, 2003, shellac, ink, gold metalic powder on canvas, 40" x 38"

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Lit Mag PHASE Hosts

"Harrisburg Bookstore Adventure"

Attention book lovers!

Hop a bus for a day of literary fun with the first-ever Harrisburg Area Bookstore Adventure, sponsored by *PHASE*, Pennsylvania's literary magazine.

This unique road trip runs 9 a.m.- 6 p.m., Saturday, October 16 and features four independent bookstores on Harrisburg's East and West Shores: The Midtown Scholar and Ted Canady Rare Books in Midtown Harrisburg, The Bookworm Bookstore in the West Shore Farmers Market, and Enola's Cupboard Maker Books.

There's break for lunch "on your own" during the stop at West Shore Farmers Market.

"This is an unprecedented opportunity for those who share a love of books, bookstores and reading to fill the well in a spirit of camaraderie and just plain fun," said Ann Elia Stewart, founder and editor of *PHASE*. As the local publisher of short fiction and creative nonfiction, provocative art and graphic design – all rendered by Pennsylvania authors and artists – *PHASE* views the Harrisburg Area Bookstore Adventure as an extension of its goal to promote the written word.

During the trip, BookstoreTourism.com founder Larry Portzline will offer a presentation on current trends in the bookselling industry. *Publishers Weekly* says Bookstore Tourism "may be the beginning of a new concept in bookselling."

The American Booksellers Association calls book tours "a new grassroots effort to support independent booksellers." *Utne* has recognized Portzline for inventing "a new type of travel." (Visit bookstoretourism.com)

Midtown Cinema Treat

Following bookstore visits, guests will be treated to a literary reading and buffet reception at Harrisburg's Midtown Cinema. When that chapter of the day ends, patrons may want to stay and enjoy one of the celebrated independent feature films showing at Midtown Cinema.

Tickets are $50 and include transportation, the literary reading and the buffet reception. Proceeds benefit Issue #7 of *PHASE*. Seating is limited and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Contact Ann Elia Stewart at P.O. Box 386, New Cumberland, PA 17070, or at annstewart@pa.net.

Lesbian Notions

Should Outing Be In Again?

by Paula Martinac

You'd think there'd be nothing left to say about outing, given some 15 years of debate about it in our community. But sure enough, outing has once again reared its controversial head. And to be honest, the political tactic that once looked bold has gone awry.

The latest outing spree began in response to attempts by radical right-wingers in Congress, fueled by the support of our "compassionate" president, to pass the heinous Federal Marriage Amendment (FMA). Gay activists John Aravosis and Michael Rogers launched a no-holds-barred crusade to out high-level, closeted staffers of rabidly antigay congressmembers. Aravosis defended his much-publicized actions in the *Washington Blade*, stating that "such staffers are, at best, enemy combatants; and, at worst, war criminals."

It's chilling that a gay activist would use the lingo of Bush's so-called "war on terrorism" to justify a course of action on behalf of our community. One of the major forces behind the FMA, the odious Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, used similarly eerie rhetoric to bolster the supposed need for the amendment, calling efforts to "defend" heterosexual marriage "the ultimate homeland security."

Strange how the lines between the far left and far right can so easily blur. Decades ago, it was homophobes who held "outing" (though they didn't call it that) over the heads of average gay people, for whom exposure of their sexuality meant losing their jobs or their families or even their freedom. In the bad old days, witch hunts like the McCarthy hearings ruined many innocent gay people's lives.

Fast forward to the present, and outing as a tool of the gay movement is very different, with gay journalists and activists exposing public figures who work against the gay movement while enjoying the protection of the closet. Sometimes the effort pays off: Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.) went public about his homosexuality when he was faced with the likelihood of being outed by several gay publications because he had voted for the notorious Defense of Marriage Act in 1996. Kolbe then felt freer to vote his conscience, supporting more pro-gay legislation than he did before his outing.

But what if Kolbe hadn't been a social moderate to begin with? Lurking beneath the good intentions of outing is the creepy assumption that gay people should, simply by virtue of being gay, walk in political lockstep - that, once freed from the restraints of the closet, gay people will automatically think in a set way on matters of public policy. Indeed, there's often fierce outrage in the community against those who see issues through an entirely different filter; I myself have railed against gay Republicans in past installments of this column.

Granted, it's hard for the majority of us to understand someone like the head of the Hawaii Log Cabin Republicans, Jeffrey Bingham Mead, who told a reporter that, in his chapter, "All of us, including me, believe that marriage is between one man and one woman." The likelihood that many gay people will vote for Bush this year boggles my mind. In a similar vein, it's hard to understand how Clarence Thomas could rule against affirmative action, or how women could be ardent anti-choice activists, working to eliminate their own reproductive freedom.

Still, it seems that bullying gay people on the other side of the political fence to agree with the rest of us - and to take up the activism we want them to do - is pretty naive.

continued on page 12

FURTHERMORE, IF WE ALLOW SAME-SEX MARRIAGE, WE'LL END UP WITH HIGHER RATES OF OUT-OF-WEDLOCK BIRTH — JUST LIKE SCANDINAVIA!
CONGRATULATIONS, MR. AND MR. BJORNSEN-SONDERGAARD — IT'S A BASTARD!

Rosie O'Donnell continued

Senate would do what they did," she said.

"[As for] the ones who voted for the amendment, I hope that what will happen is the opposite of what the president expected, which was that anyone who voted to reject the amendment would be chastised, that it would hurt their career. I think the opposite is going to happen. I would love just to get the list and the faces of every single person who voted for the amendment and support the person running against them."

O'Donnell and her wife, Kelli Carpenter O'Donnell, were married in one of the first same-sex civil ceremonies conducted in the United States earlier this year. She recalled the trip to California to tie the knot when asked why the issue of same-sex marriage seems to be capturing so many headlines at this particular time in history.

"Going to San Francisco really was inspired, in many ways, by the fact that during a war our president held a press conference to denounce gays and marriage as the big issue in our nation, just as he was sending our 22-year-olds off to be killed," she said. "I thought it was absurd and was so transparent, his motive was so transparent. I think America feels that, too."

O'Donnell accused President Bush of using the recent hubbub over same-sex marriage to distract the American public from the war in Iraq. She laid blame for hundreds of combat deaths at the door of the president, whom she claimed is using "pure fabrication" to justify going to war in the first place.

"Over 900 of America's poor have been killed in action," she fumed. "For what? For the arrest of Saddam Husayn. Well, that's not an equal trade if you ask me, or if you ask the parents, the brothers, the sisters, the children of dead soldiers. I'm very supportive of our military and when we ask them to go to war that it's for a worthy cause. This war, there is no worthy cause."

Accompanying O'Donnell and her wife on the cruise were Parker, Chelsea and Blake, three children that O'Donnell has adopted over the years. As a resident of Miami, O'Donnell is well aware of the difficulties that gays and lesbians living in the Sunshine State face when they want to adopt children.

Although she adopted her children outside of Florida, O'Donnell is lending her support to a gay couple seeking the right to adopt a child whom state authorities placed in their care years earlier. Steve Lofton and Roger Croteau are challenging a Florida law that prevents them from adopting Bert, one of several foster children that the couple have been raising for the past decade. (Visit www.lethimstay.com for background on the Lofton-Croteau family and the couple's legal fight for the right to adopt.)

While Lofton and Croteau wage their battle in the courts, O'Donnell is waging a battle of her own in the vacation travel industry. She and her family were sailing on R Family Vacations, the gay family-friendly cruise line that she is helping to finance. Some of the more than 2,000 parents and children aboard the cruise ship, representing same-sex-parents, single-parent and multiracial families, were reportedly in tears over the experience. R Family Vacations is about the importance of valuing families, rather than the politics of dictating "family values." (Remember where we first heard that turn of phrase?)

"There's a lot of people with lives that don't allow them to be as open as they could be on the cruise," O'Donnell pointed out. "To see the sense of freedom that they and their children feel is very fulfilling." During her stop at Luis Sottil Studios on historic Duval Street, O'Donnell signed many of her original works amid a throng of eager artists, reporters and fans crammed into the tiny gallery. Her paintings and collages have been described as a "visual journal" of abstract expressionism, punctuated with sometimes harsh realism. Each work serves as a marker on O'Donnell's emotional timeline, often reflecting her immediate reaction to events shaping the world around her.

"I started painting after Sept. 11," she recalled. "I had always done collages and journals. I had all these images from Sept. 11, from magazines and newspapers. I couldn't throw them away. I didn't know what to do with them, so I started gluing them on canvas and painting over them."

O'Donnell singled out Andy Warhol, Willem De Koening and Jean-Michel Basquiat from the list of artists that inspire a graffiti-like style that she continues to develop with each new piece. "I was the kind of person who would go into Madonna's house and go: Oh, my God, that's so nice. Who did that? She's like: Monet! And I'm like: Oh! He's good! Some nice ponds he made!" she joked. "I didn't really know a lot about art, so I'm getting my education as I go."

Stonewall Democrats continued

matter who the president is, and we're going to work to put John Kerry in the White House," said Harrisburg attorney Derek Cordier, one of those organizing the local Stonewall Democrats chapter.

"Everyone can do something, whether it's registering new voters, helping with phone calls and mailings or just e-mailing information to friends and family," he added.

The Stonewall Democrats focus on creating change in three ways: educating the LGBT community about the differences between the political parties; mobilizing the LGBT community to get out and vote for fair-minded Democrats; and working for an improved Democratic record on our issues while also defending against Republican attacks.

Harrisburg activist Jennifer Storm, who is also helping to organize the local chapter, said, "Here in Pennsylvania, we have a clear contrast between the dominant figures in the Democratic and Republican parties: the progressive leadership of Governor Ed Rendell, who supports domestic-partner benefits and signed an order banning discrimination against transgendered state employees, versus radical Rick Santorum, a U.S. senator who leads the charge against us and our hopes for equality. Many Republican legislators have also been working against us at the state level and trying to fire up the religious right with a gay-bashing agenda."

The Stonewall Democrats have enthusiastically endorsed John Kerry and John Edwards for president and vice president, pointing to their strong records on GLBT issues.

Senator Kerry has a long record of support for LGBT families. In 1985, his very first year in the U.S. Senate, he authored the Senate version of the Civil Rights Amendments Act, a comprehensive equal rights bill for gay Americans. Since then, he has used his leadership to promote issues such as workplace protections and equal prosecution of hate crimes. Senator Kerry has pushed for increases in HIV/AIDS funding and has fought against anti-gay measures in the U.S. Senate. In 1996, Senator Kerry was the only Senator facing reelection who voted against the discriminatory "Defense of Marriage Act" which denied federal marital rights to same-sex couples.

Senator Edwards has held a strong record on issues of equality since being elected U.S. Senator from North Carolina in 1998. Along with Senator Kerry, Edwards has actively promoted tax equity for same-sex couples, employment non-discrimination legislation, equitable enforcement of federal hate crimes laws, and recognition of civil unions. The Kerry/Edwards ticket also supports extending federal benefits to same-sex couples.

Besides the key role Pennsylvania will play in the presidential race, there are many other important races that voters will decide this fall, including a U.S. Senate race and races for the state legislature.

"We want John Kerry to have a Congress he can work with, a Congress that will put common-sense priorities first, like an economy that benefits all Americans, health care for all Americans and equality for all Americans. Even though we live in conservative Central Pennsylvania, we can help carry this state for John Kerry and John Edwards, and we can elect people to Congress and the state legislature who will consistently stand up for us and all Pennsylvanians, like Joe Hoeffel for the U.S. Senate and progressive candidates for the state Senate and the state House of Representatives," Storm said.

National Stonewall Democrats website: http://mailcenter2.comcast.net/wm/toolbar/www.stonewalldemocrats.org. Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg at (717) 234-0328 or e-mail cenpastonewall@hotmail.com.

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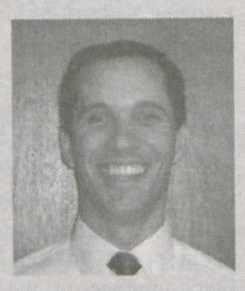

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than other Republican gubernatorial wannabes in a future primary, so the interests of his constituents are overshadowed," Epstein concluded.

Economic Development

In a letter to the editor appearing in the June 25 *Central Penn Business Journal*, Eric pointed to the economic benefits of the slots legislation and having the owners of TMI pay their fair share of property taxes.

The projected economic impact of introducing 1,500 slot machines to Penn National Race Track includes almost 2,100 new jobs and an increase in local incomes of more than $150 million. His letter also addressed how the owner of TMI is shorting local school districts and municipalities by claiming the plant's value is just a fraction of its actual value. He points to how the company is challenging Dauphin County's $64.9 million assessment by claiming the plant is only worth $5 million. Interestingly, recent news accounts valued the new reactor head at $18 million, $13 million more than the claimed value of the entire facility. Eric correctly points out the benefits that will accrue to local school districts and municipalities from TMI paying its fair share of property taxes and from the implementation of the slots legislation.

Takes Aim at Wal-Mart

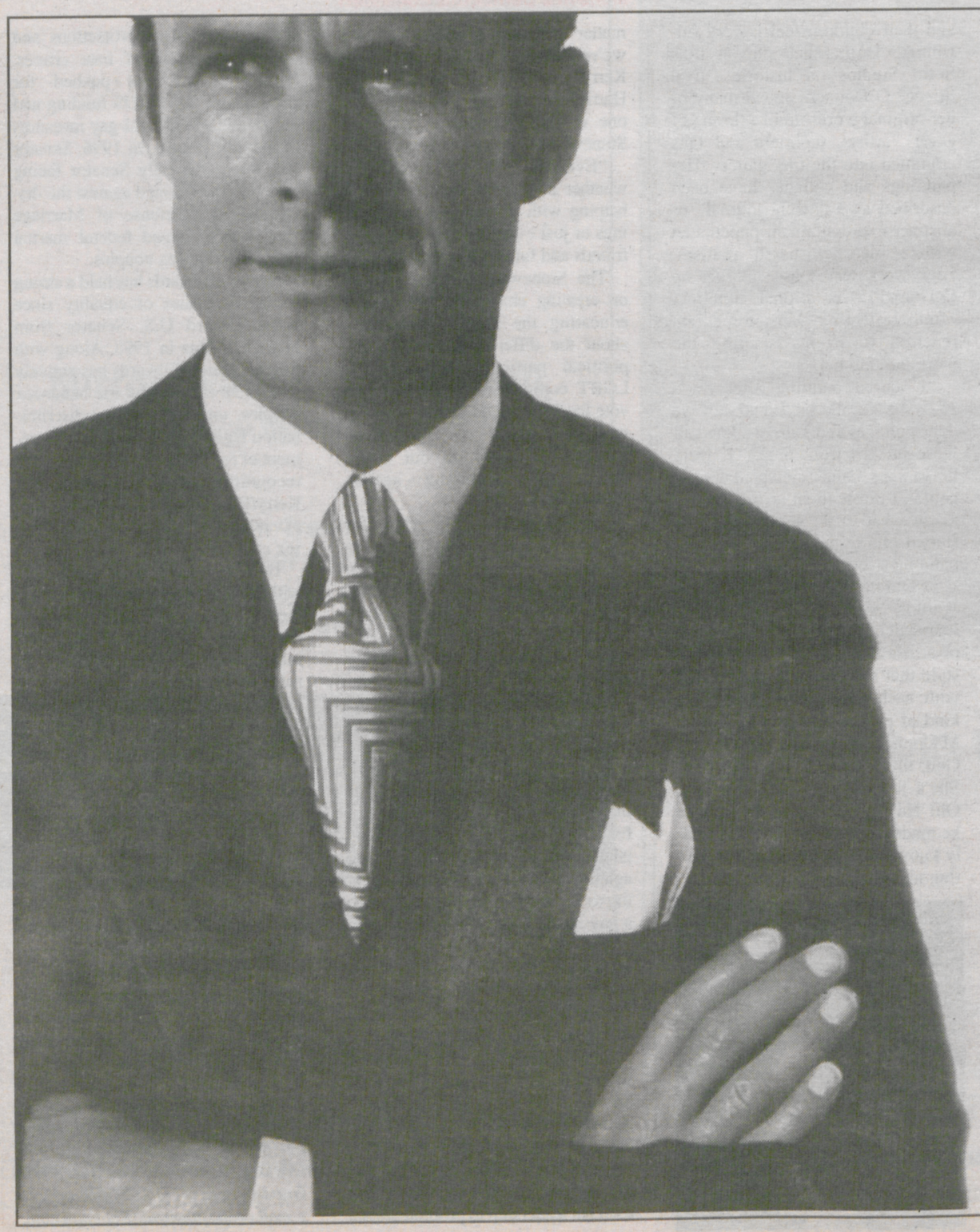
Epstein stepped in with a potential solution to keep Wal-Mart out of Lower Paxton Township and allow the Holy Name of Jesus Church to expand and upgrade its school. The church had wanted to sell its old site in return for cash to finance a relocation. His solution would place the West Hanover Township land with a conservation group. The group would preserve the wetland, saving it from development. The solution's centerpiece, he said, "is to secure a low-interest loan to the parish to expand their school with a state-of-the-art, energy-efficient green building."

"I tried to look at this in a way that would allow the parish to grow its school while keeping the open space in West Hanover Township from being developed," Epstein said. "The proposal would also take the heat off the local township officials who are really in a no-win situation. Voting for Wal-Mart is a vote against small business in the community, while voting against it can be characterized as anti-development. Under my proposal, everybody wins but Wal-Mart, but they deserve to lose one after steamrolling over dozens of small communities all over America," he concluded.

Local Daily Notices Epstein

Epstein garnered favorable ink in the (Harrisburg) *Patriot-News* in an opinion piece by columnist Pat Carroll. In a column headed "Listen up! U.S. thrives on dissent," Carroll argued for the importance of civil discourse in American life and discussed how he had the assignment to take six local politicians and lobbyists to see Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11" and discuss it with them afterwards. He wrote, "Generally their reactions were true to life. Only one had to check his agenda before responding; it made him sound as if he hadn't seen the movie."

Carroll went on to say, "The rest had opinions that you could talk about, respond to, agree or disagree. One of them, Eric Epstein, who is running for the state Senate, said the most useful thing. He was in favor of anything that got people talking about our role in Iraq. Me too."



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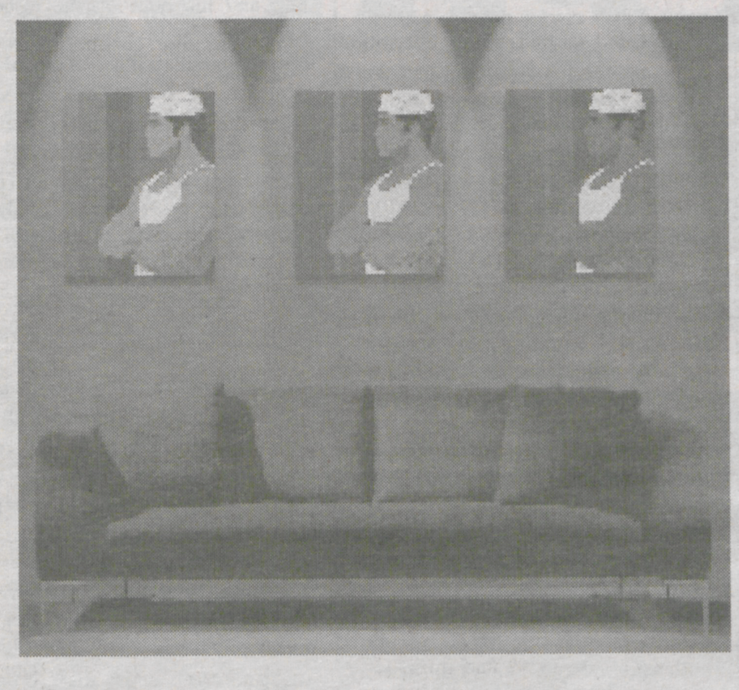
- Art Classes
- Coffee Shop (opens soon)



"Gallery Saturday" Artist Reception

September 18th
7pm-10pm
Featuring artist:
Joseph John Dudding

October 23rd
Costume Reception
6pm-9pm
Featured artist:
Dusty Genard

November 20th
2nd Anniverary Reception
6pm-10pm
Featured artist:
Bruce Johnson

"Sailor," by Adam Scott Rote

Gallery carries more than 500 works of fine art.

3rd Annual Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

October 1-7

The 3rd Annual Gay & Lesbian Film Festival at Midtown Cinema is October 1-7.

This year Midtown Cinema has been host to a Polish Film Festival and a second Jewish Film Festival. Both events were planned by volunteers from the community who worked with theatre owner Allen Brown. "I'm happy to work with the community on events," Brown says.

This year's event is a benefit for Positive Opportunities (PO) and The Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg (GLSH). PO offers free benefits counseling and job placement services for HIV-infected individuals in central Pennsylvania and is supported by Broadway Cares, Greater Harrisburg Foundation, and AIDS Community Alliance. GLSH offers free telephone and web site information (www.askglsh.org) to central Pennsylvania's queer communities.

All tickets are $8.00. For schedule, see http://www.midtowncinema.com/. Check the web site for changes and updates to festival offerings and schedule.

So far, films this year include:

Eating Out

Prepare to double over in laughter and ogle all the cute boys in this hysterical new queer comedy from Q. Allan Brocka, the maker of the *Rick and Steve* shorts. This screwball comedy harkens back to the days of Cary Grant and Katherine Hepburn (who may be turning over in their respective graves with that comparison) as a hunky straight guy pretends he's gay to get a date with a woman who only likes to hang out with gay men. Caleb just wants to meet a nice girl now after a bad experience. He goes to a party with his gay best friend and roommate Kyle (the adorably out Jim Verraros of "American Idol" fame) and spies Gwen (Stiles) as she throws her latest gay boyfriend out of the bedroom. Kyle explains to Caleb that Gwen only seems to like gay boys and he convinces Caleb he must pretend to be gay to get Gwen's attention, and it does. Caleb is so convincing that Gwen decides to fix Caleb up with her own gay best friend Marc (Carnes), a super-stud. And to top off the whole ridiculous situation, Kyle has a long-standing crush on Marc, who doesn't even seem to remember his name. Suffice it say, this is quite a date! Combining plenty of adorable gay boys with some (2004)

Bear Cub

Bear Cub is a warm, funny, sexy and intelligent story of a bearish gay man raising his sister's son. Viewers can snuggle up to one of the first feature-length narratives to feature "bears" and

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Region's Renaissance Transgender Association Active

We meet every first Saturday of each month in the Harrisburg Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) at 2973 Jefferson St. Harrisburg, PA from 8:30-11:00.

The mission of The Renaissance Transgender Association, Inc. is to provide the very best comprehensive education and caring support to Transgendered individuals and those close to them. This is accomplished through offering a variety of carefully selected programs and resources focused on the factors affecting their lives

A $5 donation is requested from non- members. Parking is plentiful and close to the building in a secure, low traffic area. Smoking is permitted outside. Light refreshments are provided, but no alcoholic beverages are permitted.

The doors open at 8:00pm for anyone needing facilities to dress.

Our Purpose is:

- Safe Space for All Transgender People
- Gender Education for Transgender People
- Gender Education for Helping Professionals
- Gender Education for the General Public
- Develop Local Support Organizations

Managing Director: Eta Moore@yahoo.com

Gay Film Festival continued

their community, many of them quite "woofy." Meet Pedro (José Luis García-Pérez) a handsome gay dentist who is unabashedly and fondly known as a "bear" — a gay male who is big and hairy. His free-spirited sister decides to take a vacation in India with her shady boyfriend leaving her 9-year-old son, Bernardo (David Castillo), in his care.

Pedro modifies his behavior by hiding all his porn, scolding his friends for their behavior in the house, and abstains from his usual steamy, sexual hook-ups. But Bernardo is quite mature for his age and loves his uncle unconditionally. When mom is unexpectedly detained in India, Pedro is faced with the possibility of raising Bernardo as his own. And to further complicate matters, Dona Teresa (Empar Ferrer), previously exiled from all of our beloved characters' lives, wants custody of the young boy and will do anything to achieve her goals.

There is amazing chemistry between the charming Pérez and shining youngster Castillo. They form a new "family" unit that builds a wonderful emotional foundation for the film. Plus, Spanish director Miguel Albaladejo, isn't shy in showing frisky sex, deep intimacy and complicated human relationships. The film is never overly sentimental or sensational but is an amusingly touching film about reinterpreting the idea of "family" whether you are gay, straight, bear or non-bear. (Spanish with English subtitles)

Latter Saints

"Latter Saints," a film about a gay Mormon missionary and offers a strong critique of Mormonism's stance on homosexuality. Viewers see Elder Aaron Davis, the missionary, struggle to come to terms with being gay, suffer rejection from his family, enduring an excommunication trial and aversion therapy. He ultimately fails to reconcile his religion with his sexuality.

But the film also shows how faith can have a positive effect, as the gay party-boy character, Christian, embarks on his own search for meaning after meeting Aaron. Director and screenwriter C. Jay Cox, himself a gay former Mormon, is best known for writing the screenplay for "Sweet Home Alabama."

Upon making his film, Cox said, "Growing up Mormon and being a missionary at 19 - being gay was my darkest secret. Exploring those issues, especially in such a public format - I couldn't have imagined doing that then. I certainly didn't start out making the movie to generate controversy. It was more of a way of personally exploring some of those issues for myself, and hopefully putting them to rest."

Latter Saints features a stellar cast including Jacqueline Bisset, Mary Kay Place, Joseph Gordon-Levitt (Manic, "3rd Rock from the Sun") , Erik Palladino ("Joan of Arcadia"), Rebekah Jordan (Liberty Heights), and Amber Benson ("Buffy the Vampire Slayer," television series). The film also marks the theatrical feature film debuts of Wes Ramsey ("Guiding Light") as Christian and newcomer Steve Sandvoss as Aaron.

Common Roads Screens "Gay Pioneers" October 24

Common Roads will screen "Gay Pioneers" October 24, 2 p.m. at Historic Harrisburg Association, 1230 N. 3rd St., across from Broad Street Market. Tickets are $10 and benefit central Pennsylvania's only gay youth organization.

From the filmmaker who produced "Jim in Bold", "Gay Pioneers" is the story of the first organized annual "homosexual" civil rights demonstrations held in Philadelphia, New York and Washington, DC from 1965-69. When few would publicly identify themselves as gay, these brave pioneers challenged pervasive homophobia.

Gay Pioneers is directed by PBS award-winning documentary filmmaker Glenn Holsten and produced by PBS affiliate WHYY and Equality Forum. It is about the gay and lesbian Rosa Parks and includes archival footage from early lgbt demonstrations; FBI investigative files; gay pioneer interviews on homophobia of that era, and Barbara Gittings, Frank Kameny and Lilli Vincenz on-camera in 2004 discussing same-sex marriage. Information - www.gaypioneers.com

Art Museum continued

assembly of the blocks is equally fascinating. Two blocks, placed in a T- formation, may resemble four. The elliptical forms within flow between them; the circle here is tense, stretched, confined but always in motion.

The exhibition ends with three monumental works by Antonio Puri, whose "5" is the centerpiece of the trio. Set at the end of the exhibition hall, it provides the climax to the show. With its ring of three concentric circles arranged on a red ground, "5" suggests a bull's-eye; it is thus a destination. Because the larger circles seem to emanate from the center, the circle here is also a point of departure. Solid in the midst of splattered paint, Puri's circles provide a sense of grounding and stability, a fixed force in a sea of random events. Yet, upon closer examination, we see that the circles are not perfect, and that the artist has let us see breaks in his drawing. Puri has created a universe in a 128" x 113" canvas encompassing oils, acrylics, wax, and newspaper. The artist says that his work reflects his upbringing in the Himalayas, with its Buddhist, Hindu, and Roman Catholic influences; those raised in any culture could easily appreciate these ideas.

In fact, the six artists represented in "Inner Circles," while expressing themselves, could be speaking for anyone. In so doing, they provide a fascinating glimpse into a universe of infinite possibilities. It is not surprising, given the paradoxical nature of the subject that we are left both satisfied and longing for more.

"Inner Circles" runs through September 30. The Susquehanna Art Museum is located at 301 Market Street in Harrisburg.

Lesbian Notations continued

That's really what this new round of outing amounts to: if you don't see things our way, we'll hunt you down, hound you,and tell everyone that you're gay. (But, oh yeah, being gay is good.)

It's no coincidence that Aravosis is the activist who gave us two other similarly rigid campaigns: StopDrLaura.com, an attempt to prevent the radio doctor's TV show from airing because she might use it to spout her antigay views; and DearMary.com, an outpouring of messages to Mary Cheney trying to coerce her to use her six-figure job in the Bush-Cheney campaign to wield influence with her powerful pop and his boss on the issue of marriage equality. (Personally, I'm skeptical that all those "Dear Mary" postcards have made her lose sleep - especially if she takes after her conscience-free Dad. I've read that there's a new verb coming into popular usage: "to Cheney" means to go from one cushy job to the next through personal contacts.)

I'm not suggesting that it's impossible for people to change their political opinions; Republicans and Democrats alike alter their political thinking all the time. In particular, there are ample instances of gay people who worked for homo-vicious right-wingers and later decided it was against their conscience to do so. But I am pretty certain the process comes about through personal reflection and political soul-searching, and not because they're badgered into it.

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of eight books and editor in chief of Q Syndicate. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com.

News Page continued

Meanwhile, police in Nepal's capital, Katmandu, arrested 39 gay men attempting to silence growing demands for gay rights in the tiny Himalayan country sandwiched between China and India. The 39 were rounded up from streets, clubs, and restaurants, and hauled off to jail. Prior to the arrests, police forcefully dispersed gays marching on their Parliament building to deliver a petition for civil rights.

Texas' Ann Richards Headlines PA Governor's Conference for Women

Philadelphia hosts PA Governor's Conference for Women Sept. 14. Ann Richards, former Texas governor and best-selling author, is keynote speaker. Online registration with a special "early bird" discount rate of $90 is available at http://www.pagovernorsconferenceforwomen.org/.

The conference is a one-day event where attendees learn from and interact with dynamic speakers from across the country. Speakers are leaders in fields such as health, business, national and international affairs and personal development. Besides 75 speakers, the conference hosts a trade show with book signings and dozens of booths featuring commercial exhibits as well as non-profit agencies and organizations.

Featured conference speakers include: Ann Richards - former Texas governor and Author Jean Chatzky - Financial Editor, NBC's "Today Show", Columnist and Author Bertice Berry, Ph.D. - Educator, former talk show host, and Author, Redemption Song Kathleen Daelemans - TV Host, Food Network's "Cooking Thin" and Author* Bebe *Moore Campbell - Author of three New York Times bestsellers, Brothers and Sisters, Singing in the Comeback Choir, and What You Owe Me

Rita Addessa Calls on Scholars to Share

By summer's end, there will be an up-to-date lgbt "canon" of 25-plus academic books (generally, social studies, history, politics) that K-12 teachers use to form lesson plans, according to Rita Addessa, executive director, PA Lesbian and Gay Task Force (PLGTF) (http://www.plgtf.org).

The book titles and educational videotapes will include both non-fiction and fiction that students K-12 can read at *various* proficiency levels, and educational videotapes that are age appropriate. Overall, the selections will reflect and represent our rich diversity and will be grounded in a social justice perspective.

Addessa requests scholars help out by simply telling her what books and videotapes they recommend (including their own) social study teachers and others use in the classroom for K-12 children of all colors and backgrounds.

'Outing' Gay Congressional Aides Adds Angst

How do gay congressional staffers who work for homophobes sleep at night? How do gay members of Pennsylvania's General Assembly really feel inside?

As the "marriage" debate honks on, Capitol Hill buzzes about "outings" of gay and lesbian staffers by fellow homosexuals. "Frankly we're giving as good as we get. If they want to have a debate on family values, we'll have one," said John Aravosis, a political consultant and gay activist. "They want to make us second-class citizens, and gay people are aiding and abetting in the effort."

"We're doing it to expose hypocrisy," said Michael Rogers, another leader in the outing campaign. "Coming out is a very personal process that people go through," one staffer said. "It can be emotionally and psychologically difficult. . . . It is not fair that they are doing this."

"We oppose using sexual orientation as a weapon," said Steven Fisher, Human Rights Campaign, the largest U.S. gay rights group.

Aravosis and Rogers have targeted 20 offices of congressional committees where they say key aides are closeted gays or lesbians and where elected officials support the constitutional amendment. They are exposing the aides on Internet sites (www.michaelrogers.us) or through ads in gay newspapers.

"We want to create a climate where the price of anti-gay prejudice is too high for Congress," said Aravosis, former staff lawyer for Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska). "I worked on the Hill over 20 years ago, and gay people are everywhere. Unfortunately, too many of us are working for the enemy."

Catholics Ignoring Pope on Queer Marriage

"Catholics Ignoring Church On Gay Marriage Poll Shows" said a recent 365Gay.com headline.

A survey of Roman Catholic concerns this political season shows that the vehement opposition by the

continued on page 14

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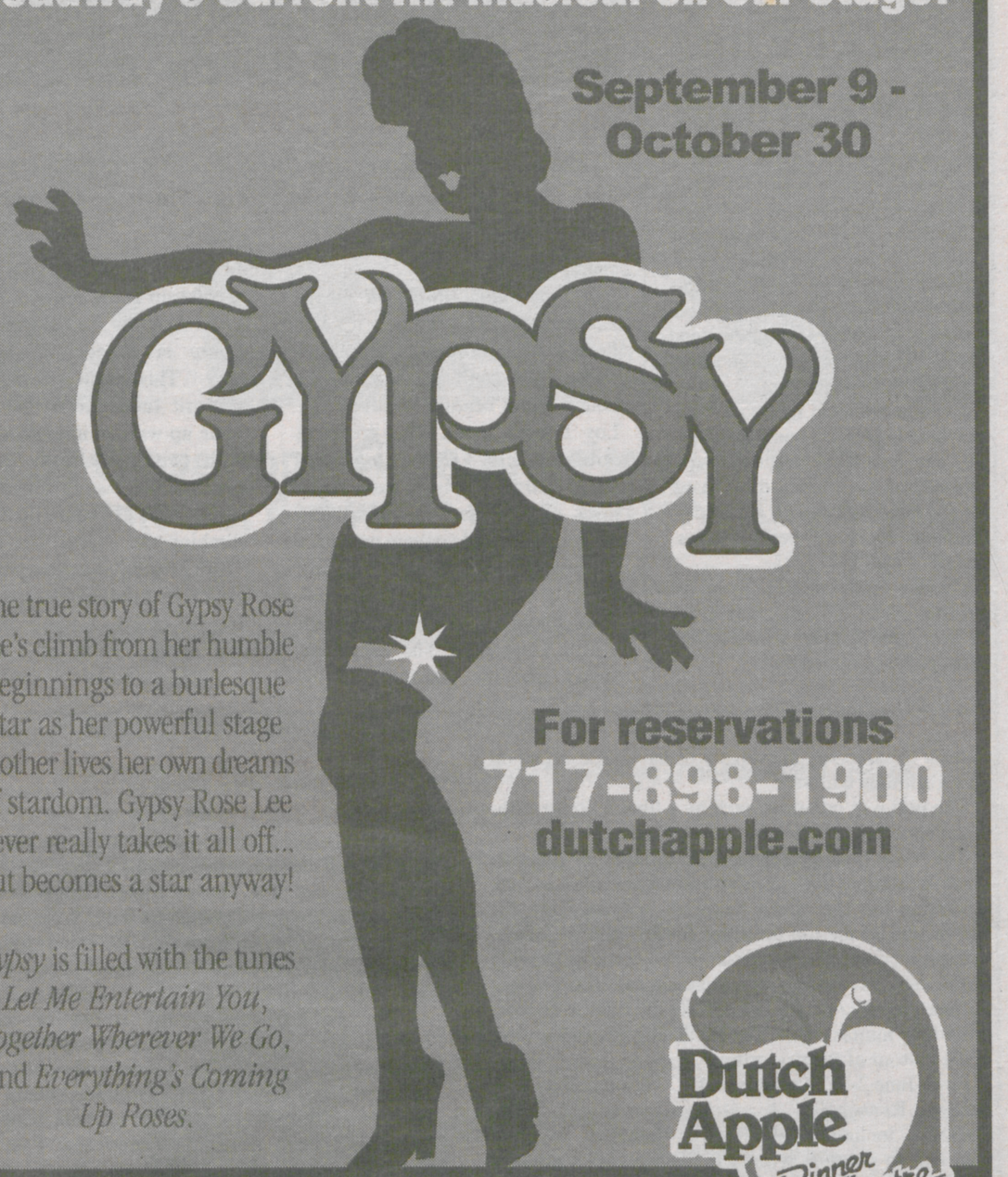

September 9 - October 30

GYPSY

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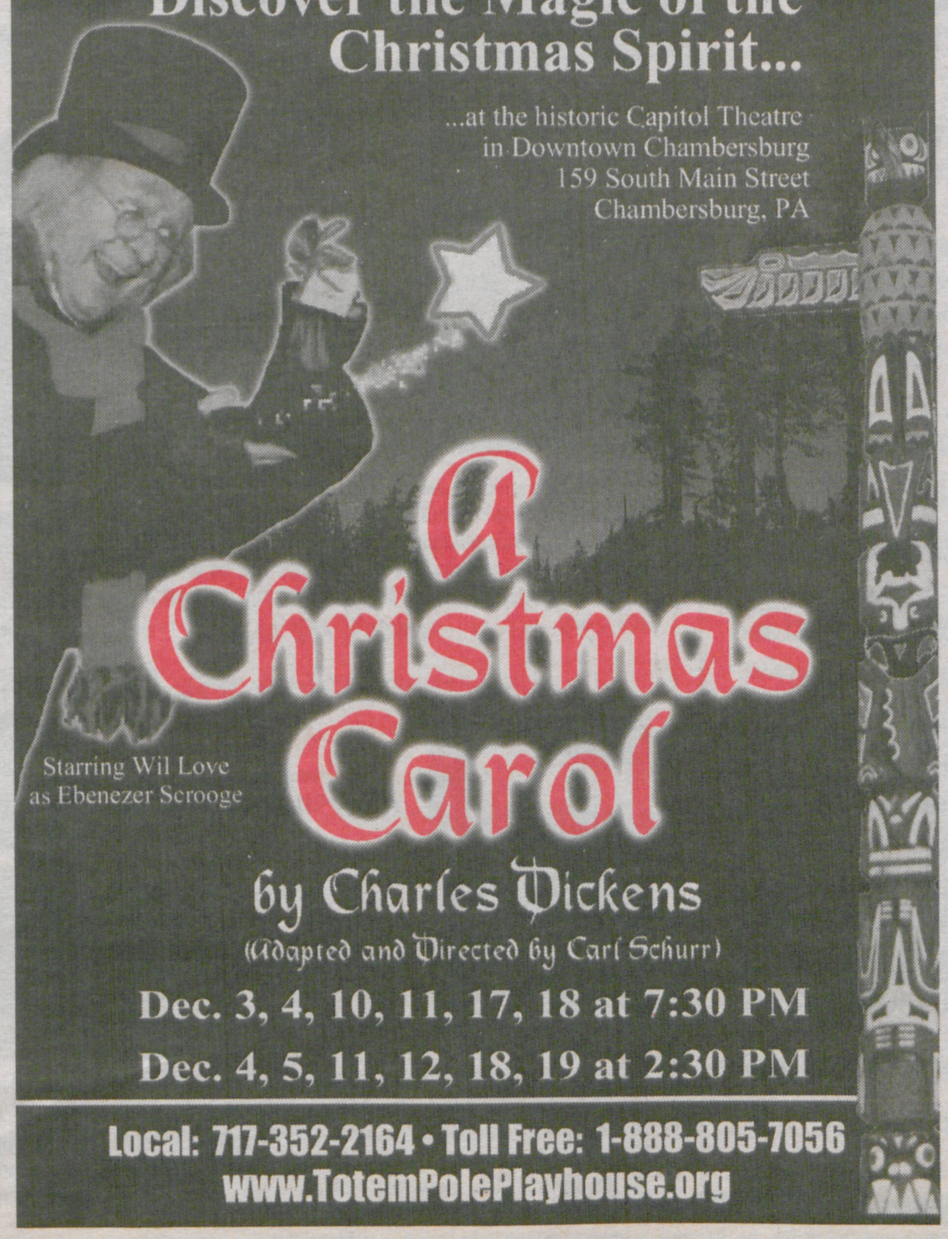

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MCC Presents "Theocracy Watch" on Religious Right

In 2004, a small group of religious extremists – known in the alternative press as The American Taliban - have succeeded beyond their wildest dreams. Now comes the backlash. "Religious freedom is one thing, but religious extremism is something completely different," notes one web site promoting diversity.

On Saturday, October 23, 7-9 p.m., Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit, 2973 Jefferson St., Harrisburg, presents Theocracy Watch, a project of the Cornell University Center for Religion, Ethics, and Social Policy. Families are welcome. Activities will be available for children during the event. Call 717-236-7387 for directions or additional information.

Theocracy Watch offers thoughtful perspectives on the ongoing efforts of the radical religious right to redirect the nation's future. The program addresses how we got here and how the media, even the progressive media, missed the most important story in modern American politics.

With gays, and others as their scapegoat, strategists have targeted a conservative religious constituency in order to expand the base of their party. Disenfranchised groups have seen in recent years how a small group of religious extremists have worked to bring the United States government under religious control.

Transgender Corner:
Transsexual Appreciates Newspaper

by Eta Moore, Managing Director
LSV Chapter of Renaissance Harrisburg

As a post-operative transsexual in the area, I enjoy *Alternative Central*, especially that the newspaper has its roots in the lgbt community. I wanted to write and thank Rachel Thompson for her fine article in July/August's Transgender Corner. Her article clearly demonstrates many clinical aspects of transsexualism that both medical professionals and the scientific community are attempting to validate. Hopefully, better information will reverse misconceptions about transsexuals within the scientific disciplines.

Unlike the distinctive facial characteristics of Down's syndrome, or the lack of muscle control caused by cerebral palsy, gender dysphoria is not readily apparent to others. Nothing immediately appears amiss. Transsexuals experience a birth defect with no visible signs.

Transsexuals appear to be perfectly normal males or females, having developed normal primary and secondary sexual characteristics. For this reason people find it difficult to believe transsexualism is a physical disorder. Others would rather believe our difference is an emotional and/or psychological problem. A common, but erroneous belief, is that with self-control or counseling, transsexuals can act "normally" and accept their lot in life. If only it were that simple.

Transgender people easily relate to the issues faced by one another daily. Of course, understanding a transgender person is more difficult for the general public which has no comparative experience. While it is virtually impossible for a non-transsexual to understand what this condition feels like, it is possible for them, if they try, to understand how this condition arises and how it is best dealt with.

Even in the local lgbt community, where I speak on being transsexual, gay and lesbian friends have approached me afterwards to thank me for clearing up their misunderstandings about my being a transsexual.

I'd like to thank you again for putting the 'T' in *Alterative Central*, and giving voice to the transgender community.

Clubs

DJ Barry B's World Of Music

Each issue Stallion's DJ Barry B will offer readers a little insight on radio, concerts, club music and music news.

What is burning up the radio charts these days?

If you follow *Billboard* magazine's chart, then you know it's *Los Lonely Boys, Maroon 5*, and *Kevin Lyttle*. You can't get through an hour without hearing *"Heaven"* by Los Lonely Boys. The group is three brothers - *Henry, Jojo, and Ringo Garza*. The band from Texas owes all their fame to *Mr. Willie Nelson,* who hooked them up with a recording contract after hearing them in a night club. Their self-titled album has a melodic feel with a little Latin flare. The vocals are strong and the guitar is heavy. Every review I have read rates these guys as brilliant musicians.

Next up is the group *Maroon 5*. *Adam Levin* is lead singer and the album is called *"Songs About Jane."* This group with its melody and grit fused R&B and rock to come up with an interesting sound. With two hits already they will have a little lasting power. *Kevin Lyttle* has his self-titled album climbing the charts. The hit song *"Turn Me On"* is a cross over hit on the R&B, Adult Contemporary and Top 40 charts. Kevin's fresh and innovative fusion of Caribbean

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News Page continued

Church to same-sex marriage will have little effect on how Catholics will vote.

The poll was commissioned by a liberal group within the church, Catholics for a Free Choice.

The View from Mainstream America: The Catholic Voter in Summer 2004 demonstrates that Catholics rank protecting the U.S. from terrorism and resolving the war in Iraq as the top priorities for the next president, with protecting jobs and Social Security and improving health care, Medicare, and public education filling out the next tier of concerns. Protecting the right to choose, promoting human rights, and advancing gay rights were at the bottom of their priorities.

From June 2-11, Washington D.C.-based polling firm Belden Russonello & Stewart surveyed 2,239 Catholics, including 366 Hispanic Catholics. By more than two to one (70 percent to 30 percent), Catholics say the views of Catholic bishops are not important to them in deciding for whom to vote. 83 percent believe that politicians have no religious obligation to vote according to a bishop's recommendation.

HRC Endorses HOEFFEL for U.S. Senate

"Rep. Hoeffel is an unwavering ally to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community?" says HRC President Cheryl Jacques. The Human Rights Campaign endorses Pennsylvania Rep. Joe Hoeffel for the U.S. Senate.

"This endorsement from the HRC stands for the simple idea that everyone deserves equal justice under the law and equal rights in America," Hoeffel said.

"The story of our country is one of constantly expanding those rights to include people of different national background, color, gender and sexual orientation. So I don't think our Constitution should ever be used to narrow those rights or exclude people from exercising their rights as Americans. I've always believed that public officials must represent everyone and fight discrimination against anyone in our community, commonwealth and country. That's what I've always tried to do and what I promise to do in the U.S. Senate, Hoeffel says."

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MCC
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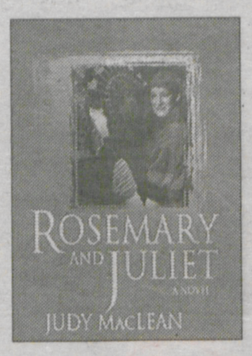
BOOK Review

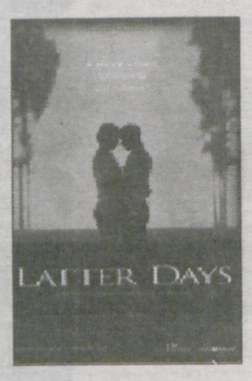
Information provided by Forever Books, 41 N. Front Street, Steelton (939-5507), Central PA's only gay & lesbian bookstore.



Rosemary and Juliet

Author: Judy Maclean

Rosemary "Romey" Arden is the only "out" lesbian at Divido High School. Her pro-choice, ex-hippie mom, Janis, runs A Women's Decision, a clinic in nearby Santa Rosa, California. Targeted by local fundamentalists as a baby-killer whose "abortion mill" is the pinnacle of evil, Janis keeps herself sane by immersing herself in the women's movement and participating in peaceful protests against intolerance. But tall, athletic Romey only wants to live the normal life of a teenager, with one difference— to find love in the arms of a girl, not a boy.



Latter Days

Contributor: T Fabris (Adapted by), C Jay Cox (Based on a Play by)

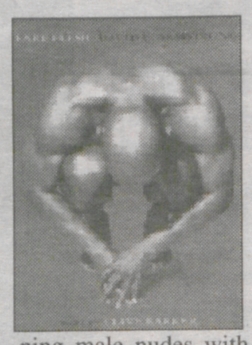
West Hollywood pretty boy Christian takes special pride in his talent for bending straight boys. So when four young Mormon missionaries set up housekeeping in the apartment across the way, he and his friends place bets on how long it will take Christian to separate one of the apple-cheeked evangelists from his sacred undergarments.

The hitch in the plan: No one could've predicted that Christian would fall in love with Aaron, the most earnest believer in the bunch

There Came Two Angels:
A Loy Lombard Mystery

Author: Julia Lieber

Loy Lombard is hired to clear the name of former Republican Senator Jasper Slade, who has been charged with the murder of a young gay hustler. When Slade himself is murdered, his body found in a the mansion of a prominent tobacco family, the evidence points to two key players in Carolina Pride, a gay rights organization. As her investigation uncovers secrets about Slade that her employer doesn't want to know, even if they willing to go to protest the powerful tobacco families that are linked to both sides of this dirty war?



Rare Flesh

Contributor: David Armstrong (Photographer), Clive Barker (Designed by)

In the dark recesses of the human imagination lies an erotic potential that is rarely explored. "Rare Flesh dares

to venture into this taboo territory, pairing Armstrong's stunning male nudes with provocative poetry and prose by Clive "Hellraiser-are already familiar with his unique brand of eroticism, and they will be eager to see it brought to life visually for the first time here. Distinguished from other male nude photography books, "Rare Flesh presents a series of photo essays that each explores a different fantasy scenario that could have sprung from a Barker Novel.

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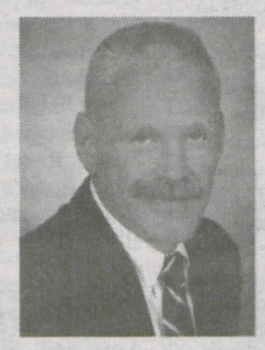

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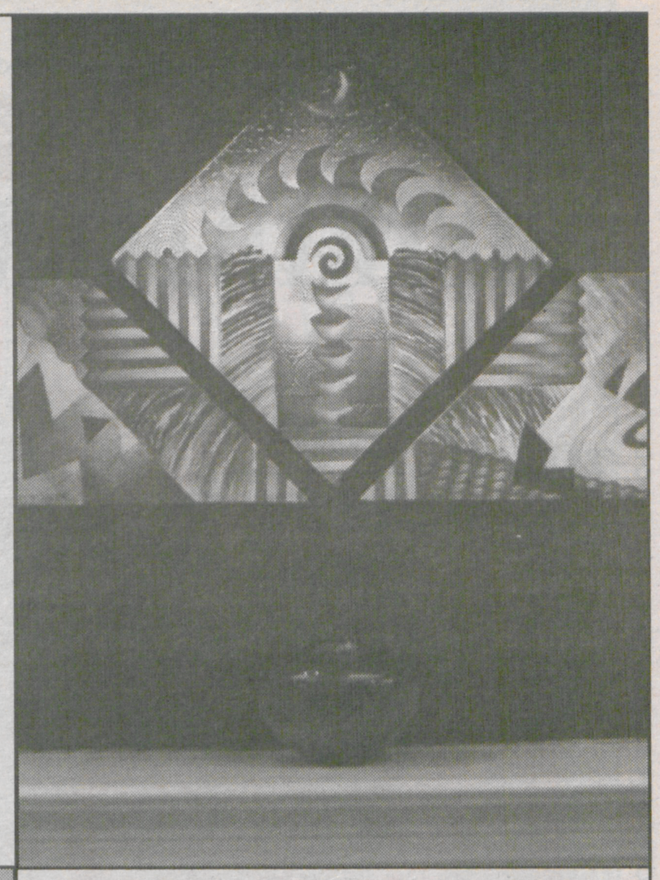

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Theatre Roundup

Open Stage of Harrisburg presents The Threepenny Opera

For the first play of its 2004-2005 season, Open Stage of Harrisburg presents the great classic of the modern international theatre, The Threepenny Opera with book by Bertolt Brecht and music by Kurt Weill.

The play runs September 17 - October 10 and is a startling mixture of sentimentality, acerbic social criticism and depravity. Its music is startling as well – an eclectic collection of jazz, popular song, ragtime, and opera. The show is filled with famous songs such as "Mack the Knife" made popular by Louis Armstrong and Bobby Darren and Pirate Jenny among others. It's a combination that's sure to capture your attention.

From its opening in 1928, Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill's Threepenny has been an incredible hit. It was performed at least 10 times daily during its first year. The play swept across Europe, playing in 50 cities. As part of the craze, a Threepenny-Bar opened in 1929, playing only music from the opera. Stores even sold Threepenny wallpaper!

The play was wildly successful because it so perfectly captured the spirit of the place and time in which it was written. Weimar Germany in the 1920's was a new Republic struggling to succeed under the crippling terms of the Treaty of Versailles with inflation so rampant it took a wheelbarrow full of Deutschmarks to purchase a loaf of bread. Corruption was everywhere and ominously the fledgling Nazi Party was gaining both strength and popularity.

Although originally written in German, Threepenny is set in the London underworld of 1837. It is a place of beggars, thieves, and prostitutes - a place where every person sells out any other for the slightest advantage. It is ruled by Jonathan Peachum, the king of beggars as a true entrepreneur.

Mack the Knife heads up the thieves division of Peachum's "business." He's got the police well greased and women vie for his intention. Mack the Knife darts in and out of trouble managing first to avoid capture by the police and later he makes a last minute escape from the hangman's noose.

Threepenny continues to electrify audiences because of the story and the music's amazing ability to transcend the time in which it was written, and to provide fresh insights to new generation.

The Threepenny Opera runs September 17 - October 10 with 8 p.m. performances Thursday – Saturday; 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets: $25, adults; $23, students, seniors. "Pay-what-you-will" performances are Thursday September 23, 30, October 7. Student rush tickets available on a first-come first-served served basis 15 minutes before each performance. For reservation information, call 717-232-6736. Open Stage of Harrisburg is conveniently located on the street level of the Walnut Street Parking Garage in downtown Harrisburg.

Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra Celebrates 75th Season

Think that Harrisburg is culture-less? Well, that's because it is. But the capitol city does have its own orchestra. Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra (HSO) has been performing locally for 75 years. Culture can be yours at a very reasonable price, too — single tickets run from $10 to $38. Package deals are also available. Indulge your classy side and help support local musical talent at the same time.

Black Tie Gala Event

HSO kicks off its 75th season Sept. 19 at The Harrisburg Hilton & Towers with a celebration worthy of the diamond anniversary! The black tie gala is sure to satisfy the discerning palate with elegant dining, a diamond auction and the talents of Maestro Stuart Malina and Friends. All proceeds benefit HSO. For ticket prices and sponsorship opportunities, call 717.545.5527.

75th Anniversary Weekend.

HSO's opening weekend features Gershwin's *An American in Paris,* Ravel's orchestration of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition,* and Tchaikovsky's dazzling *Violin Concerto* (featuring our own Odin Rathnam). Masterworks concerts are performed at the Forum Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. (Sponsored by Hershey Foods.)

Gotta Be Gershwin

The season's first pops concert is

continued on page 22

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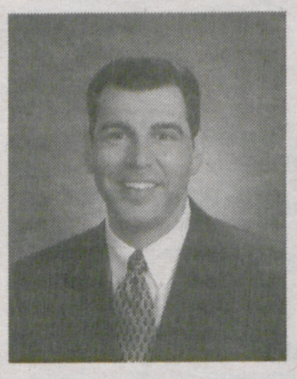

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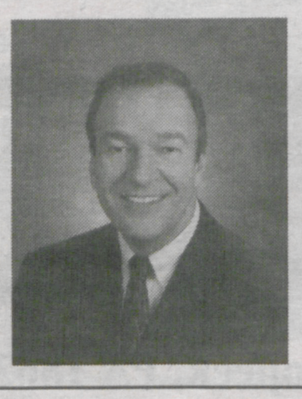

Strand-Capitol: Full Monty, Stomp, and More

The Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center has been bringing Broadway hit shows and headline musical acts to central Pennsylvania for 20 years. Located in York, it's a quick drive from almost anywhere in the region. There's not a bad seat in the house. Prices for shows vary. Box office: 717.846.1111 for details or www.strandcapitol.org.

Ottmar Liebert and Luna Negra

Nouveau guitarist Ottmar Liebert and his band Luna Negra bring their Grammy-nominated, platinum-selling jazz sound to our area Sept. 17.

The Full Monty

This Broadway smash hit contains partial nudity! Oh, and it's about six good buddies whose desperate plan to get their lives back together requires them to triumph over their fears, their nerves and their clothes. At The Strand Oct. 1-2.

Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme: One More for the Road

An American treasure of show-biz and pop music, Steve and Eydie are the quintessential great entertainers and musicians, coming to The Strand Oct. 12.

Julio Iglesias

Over the course of his 77-album career, Spain's most famous singer has sold more than 250 million units — the most by any artist, according to the Guinness Book Of World Records. He will perform at The Strand Oct. 17.

Celebrating the Blues

Coming Oct. 20, Celebrating the

continued on page 22

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, inc.
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The Switchboard is always looking for help with its programs. It takes money and volunteers to operate the Switchboard. If you would like to help by volunteering to serve on the phone line, helping financially through membership or a donation, give us a call or write GLSH and use the attached form. Thank you for your help.

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I am interested in volunteering for:_____the telephone line_____committees/projects
___Please send me information about listing my business/organization with the Switchboard
Please return this form with payment. GLSH is a 501(c) non-profit organization. All contributions are
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717.234.0328

"Bookstore Tourism" Thrives in Greenwich Village

By Larry Portzline

Booklovers who venture to New York City with any regularity are no doubt aware that Manhattan is home to some of the best independent bookstores in the U.S.

But did you know that there are more than 20 independent bookstores within a single square-mile downtown, centered in and around Greenwich Village and easily within walking distance of each other?

It's an embarrassment of literary riches that few neighborhoods in the country can claim. Whether you're looking for a brand new bestseller, an autographed first-edition, a rare biography, or the cookbook your grandmother used to keep by the stove, you can probably find it here (see map).

In the past year, I've led several sold-out "bookstore road trips" to the Village for the continuing education departments of Harrisburg Area Community College and Susquehanna University. These excursions are part of a grassroots effort I created called Bookstore Tourism. The project's goal is to promote and support indie bookstores by marketing them as a tourist destination and creating a new travel niche for booklovers. The basic idea is to encourage people around the country to organize day-trips and other kinds of literary outings to cities and towns with interesting, fun and unique bookshops that people in their own communities may not be able to visit regularly.

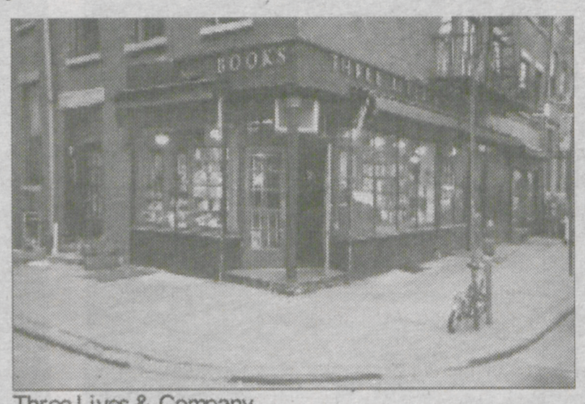
The concept is spreading quickly, judging from the tremendous response I've received from booklovers, booksellers, publishers, educators, libraries, colleges, travel professionals and others around the country who say they'd love to get on the bus and launch Bookstore Tourism where they live.

You don't have to visit Lower Manhattan's indie bookshops with a group, of course. It's just as much fun to go by yourself or with a friend or two.

Many of the stores are clustered in the Village with just a short stroll between them, but some are just "over the border" in Little Italy and SoHo, so be sure to allow for travel-time. Ambitious travelers might be able to squeeze in a dozen stores in one day, while others may be happy visiting just a few. You can always hail a cab to get there faster!

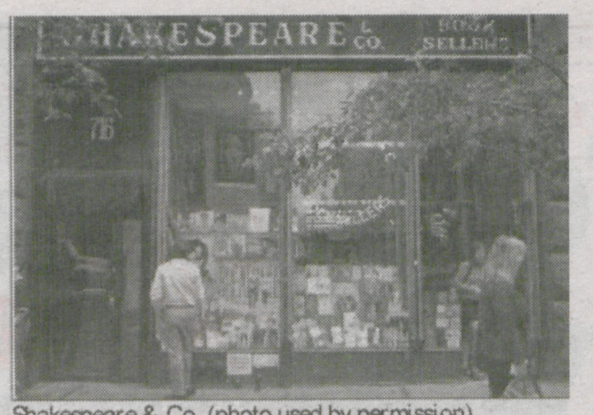
In a day when "mega-bookstores" and Internet booksellers are crowding out and even closing down struggling indie bookshops, it's reassuring to know that New York still boasts some of the best neighborhood bookstores anywhere — literary havens that don't take up an entire city block, and that still offer specialized attention to their patrons.

— Larry Portzline is a writer and part-time college instructor. This fall he will publish "Bookstore Tourism: The Book Addict's Guide to Planning & Promoting Bookstore Road Trips for Bibliophiles & Other Bookshop Junkies." Visit www.BookstoreTourism.com.



Three Lives & Company

Partners & Crime



Shakespeare & Co. (photo used by permission)

Biography Bookshop

Housing Works Used Book Café

1.Books of Wonder, 16 W. 18th St.
New York's premiere children's bookstore.

2.Skyline Books, 13 W. 18th St.
Specializes in rare first editions and signed copies.

3.Macondo Books, 221 W. 14th St.
One of the best Spanish-language bookstores in New York.

4.Lectorum Books, 137 W. 14th St.
Operated by the nation's oldest and largest Spanish book translator and distributor.

5.East West Books, 78 Fifth Ave.
A large inventory on spirituality and philosophy.

6.Twelfth St. Books, 11 E. 12th St.
Great history, politics and psychology sections mixed with art and modern literature.

7.Strand Bookstore, 828 Broadway (at 12th St.).
A must-see! The world's largest used bookstore with 16 miles of shelf space.

8.Alabaster Bookshop, 122 Fourth Ave.
A small, cozy East Village outpost.

9.Bookleaves, 304 W. 4th St.
A nice respite in the West Village with plenty of used and rare books in good condition.

10.Partners & Crime, 44 Greenwich Ave.
A laid-back shop specializing in mysteries.

11.Biography Bookshop, 400 Bleecker St.
Biography browsing at its best, with books on kings, scoundrels, celebrities — you name it.

12.Bonnie Slotnick Cookbooks, 163 W. 10th St.
A tiny store specializing in out-of-print and antiquarian cookbooks.

13.Three Lives & Company, 154 W. 10th St.
A friendly little shop with a gigantic literary reputation.

14.Oscar Wilde Bookshop, 15 Christopher St.
A gay and lesbian institution in the Village for over 30 years.

15.St. Mark's Bookshop, 31 Third Ave.
Boasts a wide variety of fiction, philosophy and the arts, plus small-press journals and magazines.

16.East Village Books, 101 St. Mark's Place.
Loads of interesting used books at reasonable prices.

17.New York University Book Center, 18 Washington Place.
Serves the NYU community and beyond.

18.Shakespeare & Co., 716 Broadway.
An intimate bookshop with great art, theatre, film and crime books.

19.Mercer Street Books, 206 Mercer St.
Great selection of used books and textbooks.

20.Housing Works Used Book Café, 126 Crosby St.
One of the hottest literary hubs in the city. The profits support homeless people living with HIV/AIDS.

21.Bluestockings, 172 Allen St.
New and used books by and for women.

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Event Calendar

September

3	Friday	7PM	Bingo Night
4	Saturday	8PM	Queer As Folk Party
8	Wednesday	7PM	Men's Discussion Group
11	Saturday	9PM	Stallions & Shimmer
12	Sunday	4PM	Women's Book Club
18	Saturday	6PM	Wine Tasting Party
		8PM	Queer As Folk Party
24	Friday	7PM	The L Word Party
25	Saturday	8PM	Love Or Lust Party

October

1	Friday	7PM	Bingo Night
2	Saturday	ALL DAY	Anniversary Partty
		8PM	Queer As Folk Party
10	Sunday	4PM	Women's Book Club
13	Wednesday	7PM	Men's Discussion Group
16	Saturday	ALL DAY	Coffee House Party
		8PM	Queer As Folk Party
23	Saturday	9PM	Stallions & Shimmer

Check Our Website for an Up-To-Date Calendar of Events

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Central PA Program Planned

How Safe Are Schools for Queer Youth?

Queer students are completely unprotected in schools in 42 states while only truly "safe" in two, says a recent report by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN).

GLSEN found a link between safe-schools laws and increased lgbt attendance and safety in school. Four out of five queer students reported homophobic harassment by peers Another 83 % said faculty and staff observing this harassment "never or only rarely intervene."

Regionally, youth group Common Roads, the National Crime Prevention Council and the National Center for Victims of Crime are collaborating to educate adolescents on the dynamics of victimization and telling them where they can turn for help. The program includes posters and a public service announcement.

Two Common Roads youth, Josh Bashore and Shawn Mc Farland, and Jennifer Storm, Dauphin County Victims Assistance Program, recently met in Dallas with students from 19 other agencies to learn about school safety issue. They are planning a program for central Pennsylvania. Posters designed by the youth depict school lockers with "faggot", "dyke" and "breeder" scrawled across them. (See posters.) The poster reads, "It was always wrong, now it's a crime."

"We want to inform people that the Pennsylvania Hate Crimes legislation makes it illegal to harass people because of their sexual orientation," notes Common roads executive director Carol Reisinger. Posters are being sent to schools, colleges and other agencies working with teens. Schools can receive the posters by Reisinger at 717-920-9534.

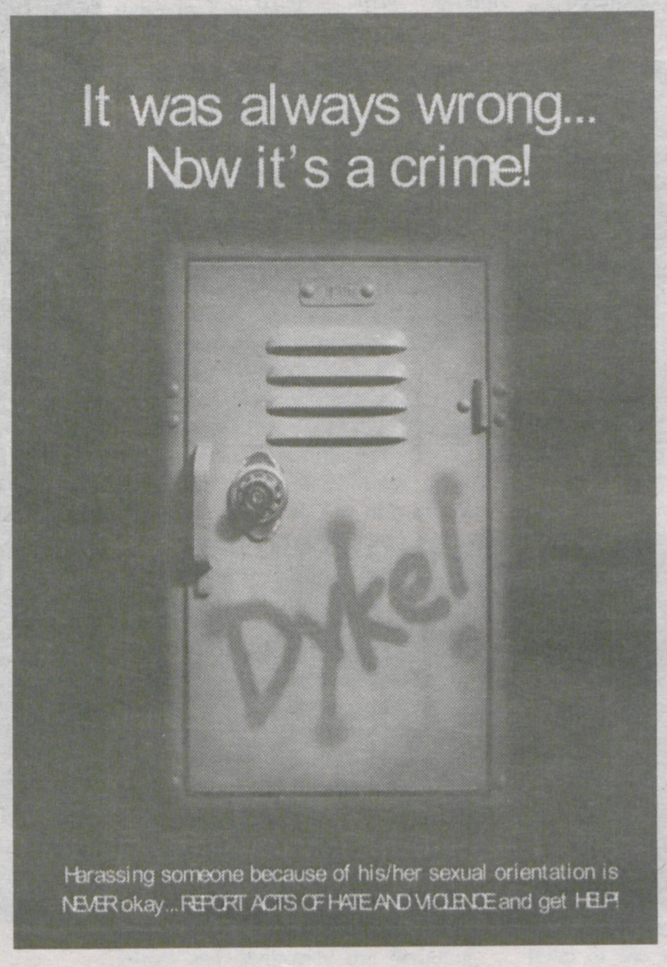
The PSA portrays a similar theme, showing students harassing other students and delivering the message that such harassment is a "crime" in Pennsylvania resulting in arrest for hate-based violence, both physical and verbal. The last scene shows a student being taken away by the police.

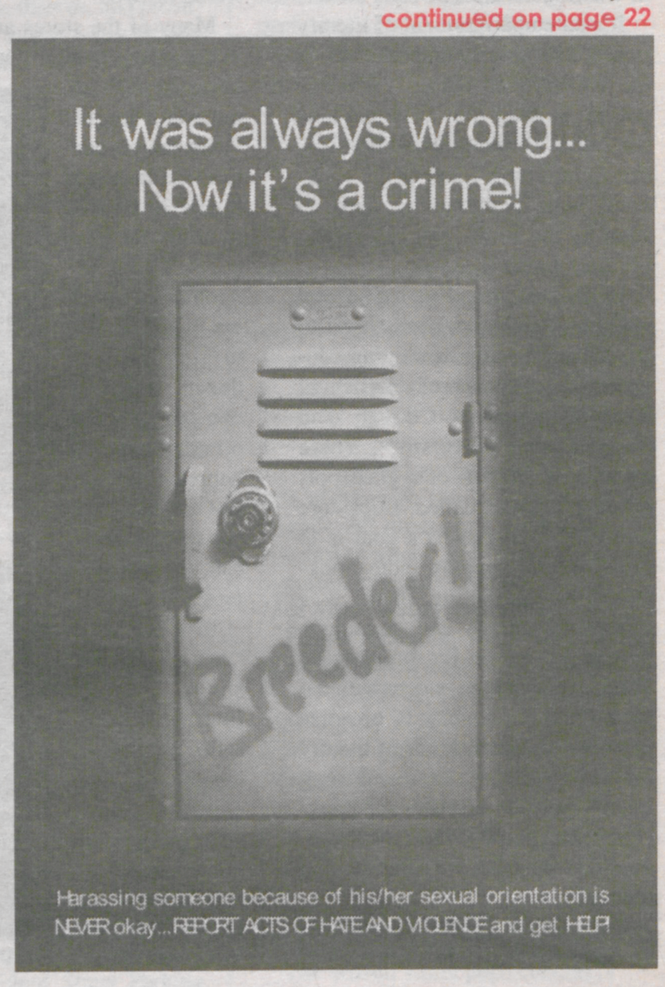
Meanwhile, New Jersey schools were ordered to toughen policies against gay-bashing. A ruling by that state's top civil rights official is expected to hold school administrators to standards similar to those that employers must enforce in the workplace. The ruling awarded $50,000 to a boy who was slapped, punched and repeatedly taunted with homosexual slurs by his seventh-grade classmates. No adult intervened.

Teens often report that the problem with controlling gay-bashing is that parents of bullies and teachers themselves think homosexuality is

continued on page 22

It was always wrong...
Now it's a crime!
Faggot!
Harassing someone because of his/her sexual orientation is NEVER okay...REPORT ACTS OF HATE AND VIOLENCE and get HELP!


It was always wrong...
Now it's a crime!
Dyke!
Harassing someone because of his/her sexual orientation is NEVER okay...REPORT ACTS OF HATE AND VIOLENCE and get HELP!


It was always wrong...
Now it's a crime!
Breeder!
Harassing someone because of his/her sexual orientation is NEVER okay...REPORT ACTS OF HATE AND VIOLENCE and get HELP!

2004-2005 SEASON
OF HARRISBURG

The Threepenny Opera
by Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill
September 17 – October 10, 2004
The classic Kurt Weill musical featuring "The Ballad of Mack the Knife". Business has never been dirtier ...!

Proof
by David Auburn
October 29 – November 21, 2004
The 2001 Pulitzer Prize and Tony-winner
Romantic, funny, mysterious and intelligent. A young woman learns how much of her father's madness–or genius–she will inherit.

Yellowman
by Dael Orlandersmith
February 4 – 27, 2005
Two star-crossed lovers cling to each other passionately and provocatively across an unusual race divide.

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To Kill a Mockingbird
dramatized by Christopher Sergel
April 15 – May 8, 2005
An American classic and a genuine work of storytelling art. The timeless tale of justice for all.
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Womenspeak Festival
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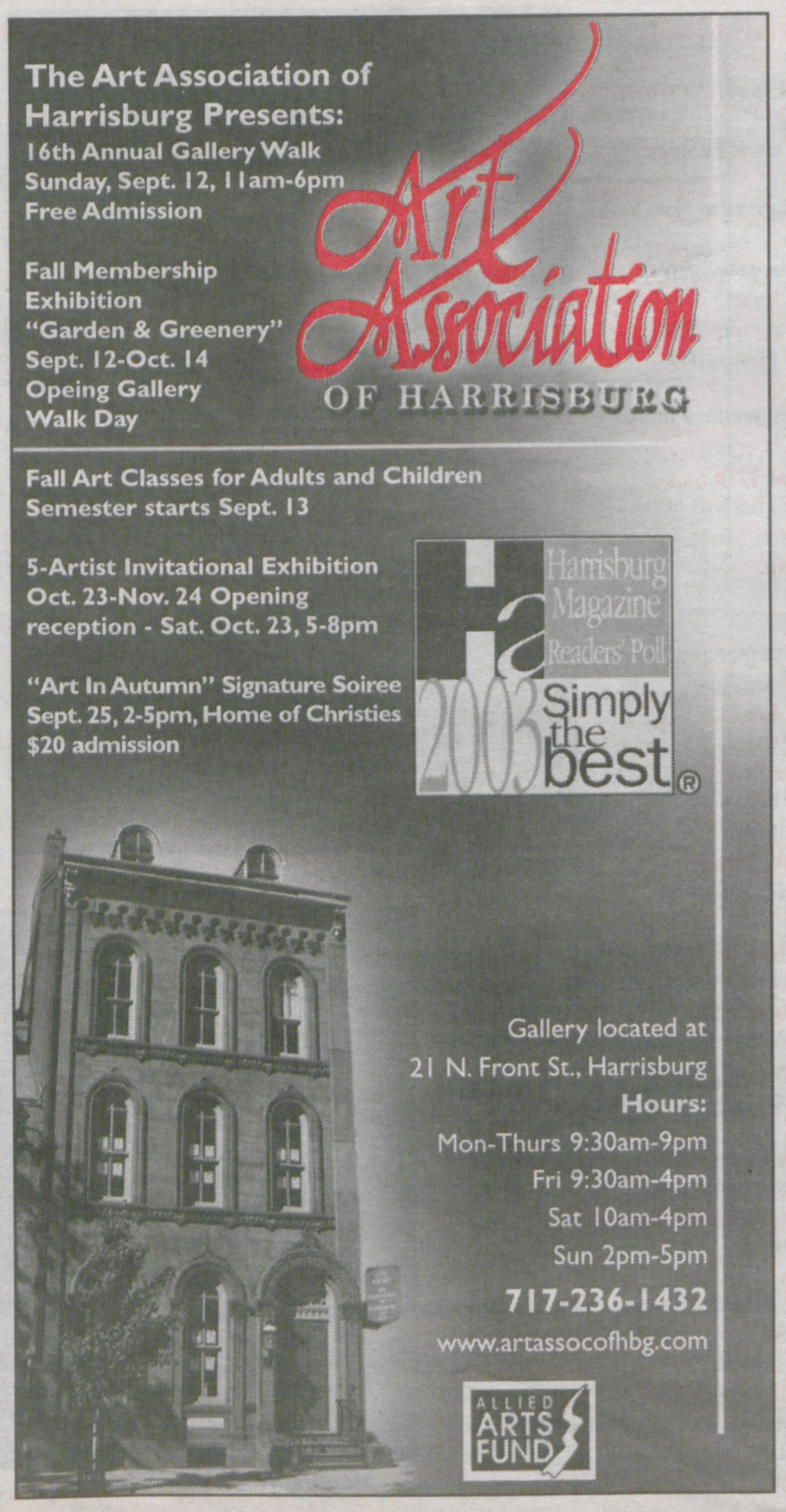

Prizes for bling-bling!

Common Roads Fundraiser: Rocky Horror Picture Show

Get out your bling-bling and join Common Roads on Friday, September 24 at the Fishing Creek Community Center for a hilarious presentation of the infamous The Rocky Horror Picture Show - complete with accompanying props for each audience member. Gate opens at 7 p.m., show begins 8 p.m. tickets are $20. Information at 717-920-9534.

The event is a fundraiser for Common Roads and takes the form of an interactive film event. For $20 participants will see the show and receive a box containing all the props needed to participate. Sodas, water and popcorn is available on site for purchase.

Prizes will be given for the best Rocky Horror costumes, so be imaginative and plan your outfit. The show is outside so bring lawn chairs or beach blankets. In case of rain, the show will be moved inside the Community Center Building.

The location is off of Route 83 South, at the Fishing Creek Exit, (Exit36) at the Fishing Creek Community Center. Tickets can be ordered from and picked up at Common Roads office or send a self addressed stamped envelope with your check to Common Roads at 1300A North 3rd St., Harrisburg, PA 17102.

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Inc.

AskGLSH.org

Hours: M-F 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

717.234.0328

Get Connected to your Community

Social Organization

Business Association for Gay and Lesbian (BAGAL) Social/Business Professionals. Meets every other month. PO Box 135 Harrisburg, PA 17108 Phone: 717.612.8445. Email: BAGAL-PA@aol.com.

Common Roads - Youth group. Ages 14-24. Social/Information/Support. Social activities every Friday eve at 7:00 P.M. 1300A North 3rd St, Harrisburg. Email: info@commonroads.org. Website: www.commonroads.org. Voice: 717.920.9534.

Gay & Lesbian Organization of Reading & Allentown -P O Box 541,Bethlehem , PA 18016, non-profit social group for adult men & women, singles & couples. 1 or 2 activities each month including potlucks, bowling, movie nights, hikes, dinners, etc. Email: glorain-pa@aol.com.

Harrisburg Gay Men's and Women's Volleyball - Social/Recreation. Every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m., Baughman United Methodist Church, New Cumberland Cost: $2.50, Contact: Jim at 233.3172.

Harrisburg Women's Rugby Club - Looking for players for summer and fall league. No experience necessary. Email: rugby-dog34@aol.com.

Lambda Car Club - Social/Recreation. Meets monthly. Email: Buickbum@aol.com Voice: Contact John Ball at 717.238.9766.

Pennsmen. Leather/Levi/Social. Membership is open to anyone over the age of 21 with an interest in the lifestyle. Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at the 704 Strawberry. Contact: Steve at 717.232.3785. Website: www.pennsmen.org, Email: jesjames71@comcast.net.

Pride Festival of Central PA - Planning meetings. Meets second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., Volunteers welcome. Email: info@harrisburgpride.org. Website: www.harrisburgpride.org. Voice: 717.234.0328.

The Rainbow Bowling League - ABC Bowling Lanes - Eisenhower Blvd, Harrisburg. The Rainbow Bowling League bowls every Thursday at 8:55 p.m. The Rainbow Bowling League is considered a "mixed" league: in other words, both men and women are welcome. We invite anyone interested in joining. Openings for individual bowlers, teams and substitutes. Contact: Mark or Robert 763-8444 for more details.

Renaissance LSV - Transgendered. Social/Information/Support. Meets the 1st Saturday of each month. Email: renaissancelsv@hotmail.org. Website: www.ren.org. Voice: 717.780.1578.

Susquehanna Valley Bears - PO BOX 61478, Harrisburg, PA 17106-1478. Website:: www.svbears.com, Email: svbears@svbears.com

Susquehanna Club - Recreation/Camping. Membership organization. Website: www.susq.org, Email: camp@susq.org.

Womyn's Chorus of Central PA - Social - Regular rehearsals every Monday night at 7 PM. We need YOUR voice and spirit. Email info@cpwchorus.org. Website: www.cpwchorus.org or call 717.234.4825.

Spiritual

Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit (MCC) - 2973 Jefferson St. Harrisburg, PA 17110, Phone: 717.236.7387, Email: mccofthespirit@cs.com, Website: www.mccofthespirit.org. "A Diverse, Christian Community, Fostering Personal, Spiritual, and Community Growth" MCC of the Spirit reaches out to ALL people and offers many ministry opportunities such as: Gospel Choir, Praise Band, and Just Jam. Sunday services are: 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 7p.m.

St. Michael Lutheran Church - 118 State St. Harrisburg, PA 17101, Phone: 717.234.0092, Sunday Email: stmichael@paonline.com, Website: www.paonline.com/stmike.

Temple Beth Shalom - 913 Allendale Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055, Phone: 717.697.2662, Fax: 717.795.7749 Contact: Rabbi Carl Choper, Email: tbs.temple@verizon.net, Website: www.tbshalom.org. Synagogue with open and affirming LGBT position.

Unitarian Church of Harrisburg - 1280 Clover Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17113, Phone: 717.564.4761 Email: uch@paonline.com, Website: www.paonline.com/uchuua. Provides a mutually supportive liberal religious environment, which nurtures each individual's free and responsible search for personal meaning and growth. Seeking to be a caring and democratic community, we gather to articulate, question, and affirm our beliefs and to develop the courage to act upon them.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York - 925 S. George St, York, PA 17403, Phone: 717.845.8212, Mon. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. - noon. Email: office@uucy.org, Website: www.uucy.org.

Unitarian Universalists of the Cumberland Valley - 2 Forge Rd, PO Box 207, Boiling Springs, PA 17007, Phone: 717.249.8944. The Unitarian Universalists of the Cumberland Valley are proud to bring the voice and the practice of liberal religion to the Cumberland Valley region. All are welcome to join us in worship regardless of age, race, religious background, class, or sexual orientation. We come together to support one another in our continuing commitment to a free and loving search for spiritual meaning and to the expression of that meaning in our community and in our personal lives. Adult services and children's religious education are offered every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

continued below

Unity Church of Harrisburg, 927 Wertzville Road, Enola, Pa 17025, Phone: 717 732-9773. Fax: 717 732-9074, Website: www.unitychurchharrisburg.com, Sunday services, classes, Spiritual & social Support Group for Alternative Lifestyles Group meets twice month.

Vision of Hope Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) - 130 East Main Street, Mountville, PA 17554. Phone: 717.285.9070 Worship - Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Contact: Rev. Debbie Coggin. Website: www.visionofhopemcc.com. Email: visionofhopemcc@aol.com.

Support Groups

TANK, Young Gay/Bi Guys 18-29 who want to create community, attend social events this summer, call 717-215-8437; tankhbg@yahoo.com; wrote TANK, 410 Division St., Suite 100, Harrisburg, PA 17110.

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Inc. - Phone helpline: (717)234.0328, M-F 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. Some weekend support. Website: www.AskGLSH.org. Email: info@AskGLSH.org. 1300A North 3rd St. Harrisburg, PA 17102.

Lambda AA – Harrisburg - Support group for recovering lesbian and gay alcoholics using 12-step program of Alcoholics Anonymous. Quaker Meeting House. 6th and Herr Sts. Lower level. (717)234-5390. Hours: Mon 8 p.m. and Fri 8:30 p.m.

Parents and Families, Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) of Central Pennsylvania - Support for GLBT families, friends, resources, publications, information from National office & small library. Meets 3rd Monday of each. Email: pflagcenpa@yahoo.com, Tressler/DIAKON: Voice: (717)795.0330. 24-hr helplineL717)728.8800.

Parents and Families, Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) of York . Meets 3rd Monday at 7 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York, 925 S. George St. York, PA 17404. For more information call (717)846.2560.

The Quest Group – a supportive, loving spiritual community for gays, lesbians and those who love them that promotes an atmosphere of unconditional acceptance and provides an opportunity to know each other through God and to know God through each other. This is a social group also. Meets the second and fourth Fridays of the month. Unity Church of Harrisburg. Enola, PA. (717)975-2028.

Rainbow AA of York (Gay and Lesbian AA). Meets Thursday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Trinity Lutheran, 415 N. West St. York. For more information (717)846.2560 or Email: chuck-dk@aol.com

Vote As If Your Life Depended On It.

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FAB 2004
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$75/person

Black Tie or Business Dress

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Proceeds from FAB 2004 will benefit non-profit organizations serving the Gay and Lesbian community in York, Lancaster, Cumberland, Dauphin, Perry, Franklin and Lebanon counties. Funds are granted through Equity for Gays and Lesbians (EGAL) Partnership Fund and administered by Greater Harrisburg Foundation.

DJ Barry B continued

soca music, American hip hop/R&B and Jamaican dancehall is a breath of fresh air to the music scene. Teaming up with the right producers that made mega super stars out of other people will certainly set him in that same direction.

What's hot in the club scene? Well, you could say *"Take Me To The Clouds Above"* by *LMC Vs U2* is smoking. The music track is from the U2 song *"With Or Without You."* The Lyric Track sounds a lot like the song *"How Will I Know"* from Whitney Houston. Put the two together and you have an interesting and fun song to dance to.

On radio and in the clubs is Nina Sky with *"Move Ya Body."* The song will make you move your body. It's twin sisters from New York and they are new on the scene. *"Move Ya Body"* is one of those hip grinding songs with a rugged reggae groove. The whole CD is worth listening to if you like R&B and hip hop with a little reggae flare.

Last on the list for club play this issue is *Britney Spears*. She is back on top of the world again with the song *"Outrageous."* This time it's a little more mature Britney Spears. R. Kelly wrote the song and it's not one of those bubble gum pop songs like she usually does. This song will make you want to move and groove.

Who's making mucho money with concerts? If you go by box office receipts, then *Madonna, Elton John, Prince, and Celine Dion* are all at the top. Madonna with sold out shows everywhere is asking up to $300 a ticket. The material girl averages $5 to $6 million a show in ticket sales.

Elton John just did a few shows at Radio City Music Hall in NY. Currently he released a greatest hits collection. Fans flocked to see him and help him earn around five million dollars for a few short nights of work.

The real surprise in concert news is *Prince*. People still like the purple prince of pop. People are turning out to see him night after night. With no really big hit or any radio airplay his ticket sales are adding up million after million.

Last on the list is my favorite diva *Celine Dion*. Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas built an arena just for her. She performs nightly there week after week. Tickets may cost as much as $225 a show for good seats. Some shows are sold out for next year already. With all the vacationers and travelers she will never run out of people to come and see her shows.

That is all for now. Take care. Check out the next issue of *Alternative Central* for DJ Barry B's *World Of Music*.

Publisher's Letter continued

marry, CBO notes. Spending on Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income would fall (that's a good thing). If same-sex marriage become legal in all 50 states, the net impact would save the federal budget nearly $1 billion a year, the report says.

The free market will eventually win out. Despite historical aberrations like the screaming, fitful American Taliban bent on defeating basic human rights for gay people, capitalism likes money more than it dislikes anyone who may have it. You would think Republicans would understand this essential "rational" feature of the marketplace they so often extol.

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Camp Curtin Black Achievers Have Tea with African American Authors

The Camp Curtin YMCA Black Achievers held a Tea & History Program July 31 at the Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts.

Designed to educate, inform and entertain, the program focused on "Great African-American Authors." The Tea featured the works of lesser-known authors such as Alain Locke and Maulana Karenga, as well as prominent authors Alice Walker and Dr. Michael Eric Dyson.

Proceeds from the program benefited the Camp Curtin Black Achievers' scholarship fund.

Black Achievers Class of 2004 members Valonda Harris, Lakita Jackson, D'Ani Johnson, Jamel Matthews-Jones and Nicole Phoenix performed the pieces; they all received scholarship funds from the Black Achievers program. Other participants included Rachel Jones Williams, who designed the program and joined in the readings, and Professor Valerie Gray of Harrisburg Area Community College. WTCY-AM 1400 Program Director Shaashawn S. Dial was mistress of ceremonies.

"I am very pleased with the program and looking forward to the next Tea, which is in the planning stages for this fall" said Black Achievers Program Director Joseph Summers. "You never know how many people you have touched or how many lives you changed with an event like this."

Summers also noted that a debt of gratitude is owed to Cynthia Phoenix, who was co-coordinator of the event. Phoenix, who stayed in the background for most of the program, "was an extraordinary asset to the event and to the Black Achievers program," Summers said.

If you would like more information about the Camp Curtin Black Achievers program or would like to make a donation to the Scholarship Fund, please contact Joseph Summers at 717.234.7508 or go online to www.ccymcablackachievers.org

News Page continued

2004 Sisterspace Weekend September 10-12

The 2004 Sisterspace Weekend is September 10-12 at private Darlington, MD camp the group has enjoyed for several years. The camp is an easy drive from Harrisburg, Philly, and Baltimore. Once again the acclaimed women's weekend offers great live entertainment. Perforers this year are Grammy-nominated South African group Sharon Katz and the Peace Train; critically acclaimed singer/songwriter Deidre McCalla; New York singer/songwriter Judy Barnett: rock/folk singer/songwriter Arlene McCann; and slam poetry artist Innocence Bello.

Attendess also enjoy swimming and sunbathing at two pools, shopping with nosite merchants (including bodyworkers), socializing and shaking it at our Friday and Saturday night dances. Includes dozens of workshops plus drumming, bonfires, karaoke, live DJs, open mic, and a steady schedule of films and videos, boating, sports, art space (for breast casting, body painting, and other creative ventures) and more. http://www.sisterspace.org/.

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MOVIE REVIEW

by Kevyn Knox

HIGH ART

(1998, Lisa Cholodenko, USA):

A luridly sensual and oft times seductive tale of one woman passing into the life of another and not knowing what has become of her old self. Ally Sheedy, who all but disappeared after her Brat Pack hey day, gives, easily, the best performance of her career, showcasing her talents at being a bewildered novice to the Lesbian lifestyle. A hot steamy affair full of smoky lust and a powerful, and sometimes dangerous bond.

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX

(1998, Don Roos, USA):

A genuinely funny sex farce (half homo / half hetero) that never settles for the easy laugh or the bathroom humour usually associated with the genre. Roos has crafted a witty esplenade of craziness that never once slows down - and even when you think it might fall into a sappy sentimental mess - you're knocked out of it by the bitter voice of Christina Ricci's jaded lead character.

FOX AND HIS FRIENDS

(1975, Rainer Werner Fassbinder, West Germany):

Probably the most tragic of 1970's Gay Autuer, Fassbinder (who also plays the title character). Fox is a lonely street hustler who only wants to find love, but instead seems to be destined for a life of heartbreak and desperation. Fassbinder, who created 44 films in just 15 years, before taking his own life in 1982, was the quintessential Director of the Gay image in his lifetime, and this film was one of his best.

THE MONKEY'S MASK

(2000, Samantha Lang, Australia):

This film played at the first ever Gay & Lesbian Film Festival at Harrisburg's Midtown Cinema in 2002. A sultry murder mystery from down under where the lady detective investigating the case is drawn into the dark lair of its main suspect/seductress. Tense and taut, this film plays like an old film noir - for the Lesbian set.

News Page continued

"The Guys" Remembers 9/11 Heroes

"The Guys", a play by Anne Nelson runs September 11, 16, 17, 18, 8 p.m. at the Pennsylvania National Fire Museum, 1820 N. 4th St., Midtown Harrisburg. The program is presented by Harrisburg Source Theatre in partnership with the Pennsylvania National Fire Museum. The September 11 performance is a benefit for the museum.

The play honors those who gave their lives on 9/11, and all those individuals who continue risking their lives to keep us safe. Tickets at 717-232-8915 and 717-379-1506 or email sourcetheatre@hotmail.com.

Mantis Collective & Moviate Present Filmmakers

Harrisburg's Mantis Collective and Moviate present **"Places in Pieces Vol. 1"** by Jason Pappariella and Dan Stauffer of the Lunchbox Collective, Thursday, September 9, 8 p.m. for $5 at the door. Filmmakers Jason Pappariella and Dan Stauffer will make an appearance.

"Places in Pieces Vol.1" is an experimental documentary that studies the rhythm and pulses of different areas in the US, mainly urban landscapes. The video is in the same vein as the films of Vertov and the Kino Pravda concept.

Essentially, the film is a work of anti-entertainment/anti-capitalism. The intent is to slow down viewers so they might appreciate the beauty and magic of everyday life. The purpose of the film is to promote positive change on personal and

continued on page 22

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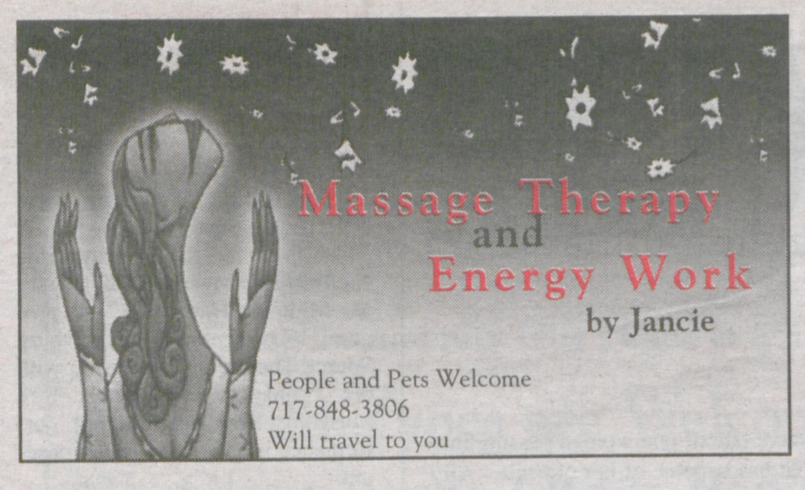

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Schools for Youth continued

wrong. Consequently, they step back, rationalizing that a kid is getting what he or she deserves anyway.

A report by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) also recently called on doctors to provide health care and guidance in safe and supportive environments for all adolescents, including non-heterosexual adolescents. Authors said "the overall goal in caring for youth who are or think they may be gay, lesbian, or bisexual is the same as for all youth: to promote normal adolescent development, social and emotional well-being, and physical health." Are these programs needed?

A diverse crowd of 150 recently held a candlelight vigil in Mobile, Ala., for gay teenager Scotty Joe Weaver, who was brutally murdered two weeks before. The gathering began with participants singing "This Little Light of Mine." Weaver, 18, was tied up, robbed, beaten, strangled and cut by his housemates, then set afire in the woods along a dirt road eight miles away. His severely burned, decomposed body was found four days later.

Why does Beenie Man (real name Anthony Davis) think his homophobic lyrics have no effect?

Clubs in Pittsburgh and Indianapolis cancelled his appearances following after complaints his music incites violence against gays.

News Page continued

social levels by focusing on the "overlooked."

"We want this piece to exude hope and possibility, by showing both the mundane and the peculiar happenings in this world of wonderment," say filmmakers Pappariella and Stauffer. The Hungry Lunchbox Collective produced the 85 minute documentary.

The Mantis Collective. 202 North St. Hbg, Pa. 17101. 717.236.2131;themantiscollective@yahoo.com.

Strand-Capitol continued

Blues will feature four-time Grammy winner, New Orleans pianist-singer Dr. John and his band, harmonica legend Charlie Musselwhite and the fast-rising young blues headliner Shemekia Copeland.

Hal Holbrook in Mark Twain Tonight!

In an exclusive return engagement to The Strand Oct. 23, Holbrook's creation is arguably still the most successful one-man production in the history of American Theatre. Winner of the Tony and N.Y. Drama Critics Circle Award,

Jim Brickman

Jim Brickman melds the timeless beauty of classical influences with the lively energy of contemporary pop. He's a cutie, too — see for yourself Oct. 27.

Stomp

This international, award-winning percussion sensation is explosive, provocative, sophisticated, sexy, utterly unique and appeals to all ages. Everything from matchboxes, brooms and garbage cans, to Zippo lighters, wooden poles and hubcaps become instruments in this show, filling the stage with magnificent rhythms. At The Strand Oct. 29-31.

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Symphony continued

October 23, 24. Stuart Malina plays *Rhapsody in Blue* and conducts other Gershwin favorites, including music from *Porgy and Bess.* Pops concerts are performed at the Forum Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 3 p.m. (Sponsored by Capital BlueCross.)

For more information, call 717.545.5527. To order tickets, call 717.214.2787.

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Saturday, Oct. 2nd Boxer & Brief Dance Party
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Friday, Oct. 22nd Black & White Dance Party
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Saturday, Oct. 30th Halloween
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